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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Jan

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["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 12 ITAR-TASS—The situation in and around Chechnya is the principal topic in today's newspapers.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA writes that "a hysterical tone concerning the Chechnya crisis was set by parliamentarians who consider themselves democrats".

The newspaper's opinion is that Russian liberal democracy, which got hold of the majority of news media, showed itself politically immature, purblind, and began to push the country to a suicide.

"A flight of federal troops from Chechnya or their defeat would have disastrous consequences and would give rise to such a powerful wave of great-power nationalism which would sweep at once both our reforms, our nascent democracy, and the legitimate rights of the Chechen people to build their life as they see fit while remaining part of the Russian Federation," ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA observes.

IZVESTIYA comments on a meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, after which a temporary cessation of combat operations in Chechnya was announced.

"There is growing realisation in the Kremlin that not everything can be resolved by the use of force. This manifests a substantial change in the Kremlin's tactics in the war against the (Dzhokhar) Dudayev regime.

"The essence of the change is to show to both the country and the world its readiness to use not only tanks and artillery guns but also peaceful means to restore order in that republic," the newspaper points out.

IZVESTIYA runs an interview with Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential staff, who assured that there is a firm intent to use peaceful methods to resolve the Chechen crisis.

"However, it is too early to speak about cancellation of a strong-arm version to resolve the Chechen crisis, since the disarmament of Dudayev's militants is viewed in the Kremlin as incontrovertible and is linked with a direct threat of a recurrence of a similar situation in other regions.

"The only thing, which all branches of power agreed upon, is to grant an amnesty for participants in the events," the newspaper notes.

IZVESTIYA carries an interview with Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov.

The Chechen factor may nullify the concept of the present Russian budget—is the conclusion which may be drawn up from the interview.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) quotes Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who arrived in Mozdok on January 11, as saying "I did not promise a blitzkrieg."

"This is a very uncommon war. If there were no restrictions at all, all tasks could have been accomplished quicker and with lesser losses," the minister pointed out.

Grachev said that he had told the very first session of Russia's Security Council that that would be "a protracted real war that would take years."

Uncontrollable armed formations operate uncoordinatedly in Groznyy. If the foe will not comply with the ultimatum terms, "we shall have to intensify efforts and launch more active combat operations," the minister said.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes that "the Chechen crisis has increased the political division among the representative power. Few deputies now may speak on behalf of the legislative branch of power as a whole.

"Neither may a deputy speak even on behalf of the constitutents, who elected him personally or voted for his party during elections, because the Chechen conflict, or to be more exact, the ways to resolve it have divided society as a whole in exactly the same manner".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that Abdullah Mikitayev, member of the commission to monitor the observance of human rights in Chechnya, has suggested that a round-table meeting of representatives from all constructive forces in Chechnya be arranged to revive the representative branch of power in that republic.

PRAVDA runs an interview with Lieutenant-General Boris Agapov, vice-president of Ingushetia.

The interview dealt with the Chechen crisis. The general believes that military actions in Chechnya may bring about an outburst in the North Caucasus.

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FCS Report on U.S. Open-Source Intelligence

MM1101204995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 3

[Extract from Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service report under the "Document" rubric: "Federal Counterintelligence Service Worried by Activity of U.S. Researchers in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the U.S. special services' use of U.S. political science and sociological centers, universities, nongovernmental foundations, and public organizations in intelligence and subversion activity on Russian territory.

(...) The collapse of the Soviet Union and the complex and contradictory processes of reform in various spheres of the vital activity of the Russian state and society were the reason for the change in the tactics of the U.S. special services' intelligence and subversive activity against Russia. Priority was given to forms of organized activity from legal positions as well as to the use of nontraditional sources of information.

(...) At present there are around 500 foreign policy research centers in the world engaged in studying our country (over 200 in the United States and over 100 in the FRG). In the United States there are many associations (for example the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and the National Planning Association); institutes (for example, the American Institute of World Resources, the Hoover Institute for problems of war, revolution, and peace); committees (for instance, the American Committee for East-West Accord and the Committee for Economic Development); corporations (the Rand Corporation); public organizations (for example, the Peace Corps, the Society for the Protection of Human Rights, and the Policy Modelling Society); councils (for instance, the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Council for Scientific Research and Exchanges); academic institutions (universities, institutes, and academies), foundations (the Soros Foundation and the Ford Foundation, for example); and centers (for example, the Harvard Russian and East European Center and the Yale Center for International and Regional Studies).

Officially the purpose of the activity of such scientific centers in Russia is to provide methodological and material assistance to ensure more intensive progress toward the market economy, the development of small and medium business, enterprise, new forms of economic and financial management, to act as intermediary in establishing links between Russian and U.S. entrepreneurs, and to provide assistance in the training of national staff. But as the information at the disposal of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] attests, the true purpose of their activity is assistance in implementing the U.S. foreign policy course aimed at deterring Russia as a state potentially capable of competing with the "only superpower."

The lack of normative acts in Russian legislation regulating the activity of foreign scientific centers on its territory helps such centers to become actively involved in carrying out intelligence and subversion activities.

(...) An analysis of the mechanism whereby the activity of scientific centers on Russian territory is funded makes it possible to identify the state structures interested in it. The main sponsors here are the U.S. Congress, the Pentagon, the NSC, and the U.S. Naval Academy. The U.S. special services are also actively involved in this funding but it is covert in character. The money is supplied to scientific centers via the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Institute (under the so-called Title III), various foundations (for example, the Free Congress Foundation and the P. Jacik Foundation) in the form of private donations and through the U.S. Department of Education. This is how the U.S. special services and the Pentagon are directing the functioning of scientific centers in Russia in the sphere of intelligence and subversive activity.

An analysis of the available materials demonstrates that the United States uses its scientific centers for the legal gathering of important information in the sphere of policy, the economy, defense, and scientific and technical research in Russia, the establishment of positions of influence in favor of U.S. interests in the aforementioned spheres, and the organization of the brain drain from Russia.

Legal Gathering of Intelligence Information [subhead]

(...) To obtain intelligence information the scientific centers utilize:

—Contacts with Russian politicians, economists, scientists, and other specialists (among other things clubs are opened for that purpose—for instance, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, and the America House);

—Tours by their staffers on Russian territory;

—The study of materials in Russian archives and libraries;

—Sociological polls and the creation of a network of respondents;

—The analysis of materials from the Russian mass media, first and foremost the regional media, and the creation of a network of correspondents;

—And the acquisition of information of interest from various sources on the pretext of studying the question of providing financial and technological assistance.

For the development of contacts between staffers of U.S. scientific centers and representatives of the Russian scientific and educational intelligentsia, local Russian organs of power and administration, businessmen, and politicians, representatives of the Peace Corps have

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created Russian-American clubs in Saratov, Vladimir, Nizhniy Novgorod, Krasnoyarsk, and a number of other Russian cities.

The gathering of open-source information using the methods of sociology and social psychology has assumed an all-out and total character. For example, at the end of 1993 staffers of Harvard, Columbia, and Duke Universities together with specialists from the Moscow State University Center for the Study of Interethnic Relations and the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology conducted a poll in 73 regions of Russia on the theme: "The pre-election situation in Russia." The main goals of this research, in the opinion of our experts, were to identify the social basis of political and social movements, analyze the political situation, and predict the Russian Federation's socioeconomic development. This research is unprecedented in its scale. The Americans questioned more than 35,000 respondents (sociological centers in this country consider 1,600-2,500 people adequate).

(...) Scientific centers gather open-source information in an attempt to obtain information containing state or commercial secrets. For example, representatives of the Hubbard College in Obninsk questioned Russian specialists, including those in possession of state secrets, in the course of which they obtained information on staff and the state of affairs at enterprises, including secret installations. When considering the matter of giving financial and technological assistance the Civic Initiative Center (United States) asked its Russian partners to provide so-called "business plans" containing commercial secrets.

Intelligence information is gathered not only by staffers of the special services but also by representatives of U.S. firms and companies who also utilize the potential of scientific centers. For example, virtually all the volunteers of the Peace Corps have secret assignments from firms to study the Russian market, provide an objective assessment of the economic situation, and also, when necessary, establish a base in Russia by creating joint ventures.

Scientific centers pay great attention to carrying out scientific and technical intelligence work.

(...) While officially proclaiming their aim to be assistance in the development of Russian science, the centers seek to conclude agreements with our scientists on the transfer of the exclusive right to utilize the results of discoveries and inventions, thus effectively dooming Russian science and the economy to lag behind under the Americans' control. For example, in 1993 the International Scientific Foundation (United States) received from private individuals and legal persons 885 items of scientific research, 76 of them from Russian scientific establishments. Private individuals are paid $500 each while scientific organizations receive $100,000 each regardless of the character of the document received. This foundation received scientific research materials from various Russian cities including those where residence by foreigners is restricted (Arzamas-16, Ufa-78, Kazan-103, Kazan-34, Perm-7, Izhevsk-8, and others). In exchange for scientific information the Soros Foundation offers Russian scientific institutions a grant—funding for scientific work of around $100,000 for one-two years. In mid-1993 there were around 3,000 pieces of Russian technology at the patent stage in the United States yielding profits running into billions when put into use. Alongside the commercial sector in the United States a precise system has been created to evaluate and select Russian technologies for the needs of that country's military-industrial complex.
nnaires conducted by specialists shows that during polls U.S. scientific centers are able to obtain information on the person being questioned, that individual's family, places of employment, leaders, and other data.

(...) In parallel with sociological research, scientific centers are creating a permanent network of respondents among Russian citizens on a contractual basis. For example, officers of the Western Group of Forces returning to Russian territory are offered an employment contract. Under the terms of the contract, the foreign scientific center pays for the installation of a fax machine attached to the officer's telephone and pays for each report that he provides. The Russian officer has to answer the center's questions on the political and socioeconomic situation in the region where our troops are being transferred.

The U.S. special services pay particular attention to studying materials from the Russian mass media, in particular the local press. The Americans have now begun forming an extensive network of correspondents. In each region of Russia they plan to select between three and five people who, for the appropriate compensation, will carry out the preliminary analysis of the local press and provide their own commentaries to it. For example, in April 1993 representatives of the firm MAG and the U.S. magazine OST in Bryansk, Lipetsk, and Belgorod invited local residents to become correspondents for them.

The networks of respondents and correspondents created by the Americans in Russia is essentially an apparatus of legal sources of information. If relations between Russia and the United States deteriorate, it may be expected that the Americans will switch their contacts from this category of sources to an illegal basis thereby creating an additional network of agents covering virtually all the regions of Russia.

However, the scientific centers are also creating an operational network of agents for conducting scientific and technical intelligence work. In a number of cases agents are recruited openly. For instance, the firm Technogenesis is officially offering Russian scientists a confidential employment contract. The so-called "independent agent" thus commits himself to give the firm information on advanced technologies and priority areas of science and technology and their authors.

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In some cases the gathering of intelligence information is the scientific centers' only purpose in Russia. For example, when the International Financial Laboratory had performed that specific function it wound down its activity in our country.

Recently there have been cases of direct requests by representatives of the U.S. military department to Russian scientific research establishments engaged in defense-related problems for information of interest to them. For example, at the start of 1994 representatives of the U.S. Navy Staff offered the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University's Institute of Mechanics funding for scientific research work in exchange for information on the results obtained (the Institute of Mechanics conducts research into the mathematical modeling of ground-launched missile flights).

The Creation of Positions of Influence in the Sphere of Russian Politics, Economics, Science, and Defense

(...) Since 1985 certain leaders and activists of so-called informal associations have begun figuring as objects of study by U.S. special services. They have been afforded methodological, material, technical, and other forms of assistance. Today there are grounds for thinking that the Americans have suceeded in establishing very high-level pro-U.S. lobbies in a number of central Russian organs of power and administration as a result of the work carried out.

According to available information, recommendations designed to reform Russian organs of power and administration have been drawn up by a number of U.S. foundations. The foundations clear such material in congressional commissions and then attempt to convey it to Russia's power structures via the positions they have established here. For example, the Heritage Foundation has drawn up a Program of Reforms for the New Russian Parliament and recommendations on reforming Russia's special services. (...)

A trend toward setting up links with the "constructive opposition," in which they include Yabloko, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, and the Democratic Party of Russia, has been observable of late. But it should be noted that the "constructive opposition" does not entirely fit the Americans' bill. In this regard the Ford Foundation points to the need to "study and support the second and subsequent echelons of Russian politicians." In the Americans' opinion, this work will make it possible to "foster" new pro-U.S. political leaders who will replace the current Russian leadership. Characteristically, the basic requirements are that prospective members of the "new elite" should "not be linked to CPSU activity in the past or currently work in presidential or governmental structures." The Americans have thus categorized Communists and present-day democratic leaders as having no future. They intend to promote the emergence of new political forces in Russia which are oriented toward "Western values" and are capable, on the one hand, of furthering U.S. interests and, on the other hand, of enjoying the broad support of the Russian people.

At present the scientific centers are trying to identify potential Russian presidential aspirants and to find ways of approaching them.

Disappointment at the results of the actions of pro-U.S. Russian political leaders has resulted since the end of 1993 in the Americans shifting the scientific centers' activity concerned with expanding U.S. influence away from Moscow and St. Petersburg toward the regions. The establishment of close contacts with local administrations and the exertion of influence on them have become priorities here.

(...) With the aim of fostering new Russian political leaders capable of pursuing a pro-U.S. course, the scientific centers are organizing on Russian territory various kinds of seminars for representatives of organs of power and administration and promising politicians, economists, scientists, and entrepreneurs, during which people who meet the set requirements are picked out. The selected candidates are sent to the United States on training programs where they are "conditioned" and "U.S. values" are inculcated in them. Training programs abroad are regarded by the Americans as the chief component in the process of getting Russian citizens involved in cooperation. In 1993, for example, a four-day, USIA-financed seminar entitled American and Russian Federal Systems was organized in Novosibirsk for 25 leaders of organs of representative and executive power from 21 regions of our country (stretching from Arkhangelsk to Vladivostok) during which the question of selecting 10 candidates for training programs in the United States was decided. In so doing the Americans did not even try to hide the fact that their aim was to form pro-U.S. lobbies in Russia. (...)

Organizing the Brain Drain from Russia

(...) The problem of the brain drain has acquired a degree of acuteness in the Russian Federation whereby it is legitimate to ask whether it poses real threats to the vital interests of our state.

Foreign experts give the following forecast of the way the situation will develop. First, there is expected to be an annual exodus from Russia of 200-300 scientists engaged in advanced research work who are capable of making real contributions to Western firms and institutions in fields such as the creation of new medicines, the development of original computer software, the production of composite materials, and the development of applied mathematics. The exodus of highly skilled specialists in these disciplines will deny Russia potential achievements in the sphere of scientific and technical progress. Second, the exodus of 1,000-2,000 scientists who have contacts with Western partners and who are involved in priority research conducted in the West will sever useful links between Russian research centers and Western

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counterparts. Third, the exodus of specialists in the military-industrial complex poses the threat of a reduction in the combat effectiveness of the Russian Army and the armies of other CIS countries.

Foreign scientific centers display special interest first and foremost in gifted individuals. Various international exchanges, during which people are evaluated in advance and situations created whereby a suitable offer to extend their study or work abroad can be made, are used to select talented people.

For example, in February 1994 a three-round competition was held in Krasnoyarsk, organized by the American ASPREL/AKSELS [name as transliterated] society, involving 300 of the city's most gifted school children with the aim of picking out eight to ten of them to study in the United States. The aspirants answered a special questionnaire, filled out a detailed application form, and underwent individual interviews. There are grounds for thinking that this competition forms part of a U.S. government-financed program designed to identify and monitor the progress of the most promising Russian cadres. (...)

FCS analysis of documents on U.S. special services' use of U.S. scientific centers for intelligence and subversive activity on Russian Federation territory allows the following conclusions to be drawn:

1. The use of scientific centers for intelligence and subversive activity against Russia is becoming all-out in character and is being conducted as part of a detailed planned U.S. program to forge firm political, economic, scientific, and other positions on the territory of the former USSR.

2. The United States is exploiting the potential of its special services and scientific centers to carry out in-depth penetration of all spheres of our country's vital activity and is taking up strategic positions and exerting crucial influence on the development of political and economic processes in the Russian Federation.

3. The large-scale employment of nontraditional ways and means of gathering information has elevated the U.S. special services' activity to a qualitatively new level.

4. As of today Russia lacks an effective system to counteract the gathering of intelligence information by foreign special services, primarily those of the United States, through the agency of scientific centers, which enables intelligence services in a number of instances to operate essentially in the open without having to disguise their activity. (...)

5. The destruction of the unified system for safeguarding state secrets, the devaluing of the concepts of patriotism and vigilance, uncontrolled contacts between people in possession of secrets and foreigners, and the desire to earn "big bucks" at any price have also facilitated the leakage of important information abroad.

On the whole, analysis of the current situation indicates the urgent need to take a range of measures to prevent the interference of foreign states, particularly the United States, in Russia's internal affairs and to protect and reinforce its scientific and intellectual potential.

The following such measures could, in our view, be proposed:

1. The creation of an effective statewide system to counteract the gathering of intelligence by foreign special services.

2. The study of the problem of the growth of threats to Russia's security connected with attempts by foreign states to exert influence on the political, economic, defense, and scientific spheres of activity of the Russian state and Russian society.

3. The drafting and implementation of a statewide program to counteract the brain drain.

4. The study of the question of adopting new acts of legislation and amending existing ones. (...)

6. Properly organized control over the departure of people in possession of secrets from the country and the export of the results of scientific activity by individual scientists and scientific research institutions.

Kozyrev Japan Visit Not 'Postponed,' Date Not Fixed

MM1101185595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry": "The Minister Has a Busy Schedule"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry is in favor of Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan taking place, and is calling on Tokyo to work with it on its specific content. High-ranking Russian diplomats directly involved in problems of relations with Japan have stated this.

They gave these explanations in connection with the press conference given by Yohei Kono, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who reported that Moscow has informed Tokyo that it is impossible for Andrey Kozyrev to visit Japan in January because of the internal political situation in Russia.

Aleksandr Panov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, focused attention on the unjustifiability of speaking of the "postponement" of the Russian Foreign Ministry head's visit to Tokyo. He recalled that "there was no agreement on specific dates for the visit," and consequently there can be no question of a "postponement" of the trip.

The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry also made it clear that Moscow does not intend to dramatize the

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situation over the date of Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan, as the Japanese mass media and certain official figures are doing.

Decision Said 'Unconnected' With Chechnya

MM1201094795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Smolensk Square Takes a Break in Dialogue With Tokyo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russo-Japanese relations, which are far from untroubled as it is, have been subjected to another test. Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono announced at a news conference that Moscow has declared that a visit to Japan by Andrey Kozyrev in January is impossible.

Tokyo has displayed a most touchy reaction to this news. According to ITAR-TASS, an unidentified high-ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman told journalists that if Kozyrev's trip does not take place in January, it will be necessary to "reconsider policy on Russia."

At the same time the Russian Foreign Ministry claims that nothing dramatic has happened. "How can you talk about the postponement of a visit whose date has not been fixed?" a Foreign Ministry staffer responsible for Russo-Japanese relations told IZVESTIYA. In the opinion of Kozyrev's deputy, Aleksandr Panov, the ideal time for the visit would be February-March 1995. Smolensk Square is giving assurances that the decision not to hold the visit in January is totally unconnected with events in Chechnya.

However, that is hard to believe. While the fighting is going on in the Caucasus and chaos and confusion reign in the Kremlin, Russian diplomacy is hardly going to emerge from the state of almost total paralysis in which it has spent the past month. The political crisis which has broken out in Moscow and the intensified international isolation of the Russian leadership are not the best background for a discussion of the sensitive problem of the "northern territories." Hence it is easy to understand why Andrey Kozyrev has no great desire to go to Tokyo to be lectured by the Japanese on the need to observe human rights and resolve the Chechen question by peaceful and civilized means.

No matter how hard the Japanese side tries to express its displeasure, it may be presumed that it is not too disappointed at the postponement of the visit. The "patriotic" shift which clearly emerged in Russian foreign policy in 1994 leaves little hope that Moscow and Tokyo will be able to settle the territorial dispute in the foreseeable future. Neither side is prepared for compromise today.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Discuss NATO, Possible Summit

MM1101184095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry": "Andrey Kozyrev Will Meet With Warren Christopher in Geneva"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "A continuation of the constant dialogue" which the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign policy departments are conducting is what a high-ranking Russian diplomat called the meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher scheduled for 17-18 January in Geneva. "The question that is worrying us is the prospect of the expansion of NATO," he noted, recalling that Russia has expressed objections about the "massive increase" in the number of participants in the North Atlantic Treaty by East European countries being received into its ranks in the next few years.

From what he said, "the subject of holding another Russian-American summit may be discussed" in Geneva. Recalling that Boris Yeltsin visited the United States in September of last year, the diplomat indicated that "it is now the American side's turn" to make a return visit. "In all likelihood this summit will be held in spring," he supposed.

Christopher Resignation 'Will Hardly Sadden' Moscow

MM1201090995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 95 pp 1, 5

[Report by Nikolay Dolgopolov: "Resignation of U.S. Kozyrev Will Not Sadden Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will resign in the next few weeks, diplomatic correspondents for THE BOSTON GLOBE, who "unearthed" the sensational news during backstage gatherings with Christopher's closest aides, announced.

Yesterday Department of State spokesperson Christina Shelley devoted a special briefing to this article—if you believe Shelley, "such rumors are nothing new and do not correspond to reality." However neither she nor Christopher himself have rejected the newspaper's claim that the secretary of state's possible resignation depends primarily on Clinton's plans to reorganize the Department of State.

Your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent was told by sources in this department that the impending reorganization will begin with the merger and downsizing of the staff of the International Development Agency (it tackles economic and consultative aid for developing countries) and the Disarmament and Arms Control Agency. Christopher has opposed and continues

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to oppose these changes just as he is against anything new that his younger colleagues suggest.

The rumors of Warren Christopher's possible resignation as secretary of state will hardly sadden his Moscow colleagues too much. High-ranking Foreign Ministry personnel have repeatedly upbraided among themselves the by no means young American for his intractability and excessive firmness at times when it is unnecessary. And Christopher would prefer not to tell the Russian side about his own country's plans, giving Moscow bosses an opportunity to learn of their implementation from CNN-TV reports.

You cannot describe as tactful the way Chris (that is what his ministerial counterparts call him among themselves) deals with people. You can see that Chris was no graduate of diplomatic academies. It was no trouble for the American for instance to wake the Russian minister or his deputy at 0200 or 0300 hours to start up an insignificant conversation on a useless or quite unpressing matter. When asked whether he could not have telephoned a little earlier or later, Chris gave no particular response. After all it is evening in the United States and as for the rest.... However, the nocturnal telephone calls soon stopped: Russians telephoned the secretary of state a couple of times on the same two or three nights and the crafty diplomat saw for himself that a time difference does nonetheless exist between Moscow and Washington.

Nonetheless Bill Clinton is not criticized so harshly for his foreign policy as for his domestic policy—largely thanks to the extremely hard secretary of state. However, time is moving on and a president who fails to realize that is a bad president. Chris has not so far managed to catch the new wind in his somewhat droopy sails—like his cheeks.

U.S. Administration Said To Retain 'Faith' in Yeltsin

MM1101121195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 6

[Report by Stanislav Kucher: "Love of Evil: United States Still Has Faith in Yeltsin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Early in the new year U.S. politicians are preoccupied not only and not so much with the development of events in Chechnya as with the likely change of the political situation in Moscow.

Secretary of State Christopher, for instance, during an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES remarked that "it is absolutely obvious that the situation in Chechnya is not developing as Yeltsin had hoped" and that there is every indication that it is not only his "poor military advisers" who are to blame for this. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said during a speech at the National Press Club that the tragedy in Chechnya is demonstrating increasingly clearly the instability of the political elite's position and the "frailty of democratic institutions" in Russia.

Christopher's deputy, Strobe Talbott, turned the discussion away from events in Chechnya altogether to Boris Yeltsin's current position and hastened to comment that the "U.S. Government, I repeat, has no intention of discounting President Yeltsin." In the opinion of Kremlinologists, the question of the stability of the Russian president's position is being examined with particular care by the U.S. Government now, and that is why people like Talbott are doggedly continuing to assert that Yeltsin is the only partner with whom the United States plans to do business.

Having once again stated U.S. support for Yeltsin, U.S. Vice President Gore hinted during an interview with CNN that recent events in Chechnya are forcing the U.S. Administration to take a closer, less biased look at events both in Chechnya and Moscow as well as various Russian political leaders' actions and political plans. The vice president did not say outright that the United States is seriously concerned at Yeltsin's future; however, you could read that "between the lines."

But Robert Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, was the most frank and categorical in the way that he expressed the Russian president's position. He "totally disagreed with the view that the Russian Federation president is in control of the situation in Chechnya and that America should in the future bank on Yeltsin alone."

Yeltsin Canada Visit Slated for Feb or Mar

MM1101131195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report from the "Events of the Day" column: "President Will Go to Canada"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Canada is scheduled for late winter—early spring this year.

As reported in diplomatic circles, we are talking here about February or March.

Hungary's OSCE Envoy on Talks With Kozyrev on Chechnya

LD1101134495 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0545 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] On behalf of [Hungarian] Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs, who is the chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati has been holding talks in Moscow since Monday, 9 January. The basic purpose of his talks was to get the Russian leadership to accept the assistance of the European organization in mediating to resolve the Chechen crisis, and to get it to assent to the OSCE sending a three-member delegation of observers to the region.

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After yesterday's talks with the Russian foreign minister, Istvan Gyarmati held a news briefing, where he also replied to questions from our correspondent, Janos Molnar.

[Begin recording] [Molnar] This is the first time since the Chechen crisis began that Russia acknowledged that the crisis itself is not exclusively an internal affair. You held discussions with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. What were the results of these talks?

[Gyarmati] We agreed that Russia welcomes the OSCE intention to take an active part in handling some aspects of the conflict, in eliminating the consequences of the conflict, and in restoring the normal situation, legality and democracy—as they put it.

This means, specifically, that the Russian Republic is ready, within the framework of this cooperation, to receive an OSCE mission, a mission of the OSCE chairman, which will visit Chechenya too, and which—with the awareness and on the basis of the facts brought to light there—will work out proposals concerning the type of assistance the OSCE can provide Russia in the spheres of human rights and humanitarian aid.

This is precisely the result we expected from my mission, while naturally pointing out that this is only the beginning of a process, and this process will be protracted. Obviously the crisis, the nonmilitary aspect of it, cannot be settled in the space of days or a few weeks. Therefore, the involvement of the OSCE here will last at least for the duration of the Hungarian chairmanship [of the OSCE] and perhaps for even longer.

[Molnar] At the evening press briefing you said that the OSCE wished to offer Russia proposals for a peaceful [konfliktus- mentes] resolution of the conflict—therefore you do not wish to have an argument with a member state [of the OSCE]. Nonetheless, this is the first time that the OSCE is intervening—so to say—in the internal affairs of a European superpower, a world power. What impact might this have in the future?

[Gyarmati] I believe that the handling of a conflict in a nonconfrontational manner is far from doing so in a manner which is free of conflict. [sentence as heard] If Russia is willing to have this sort of cooperation in the long term, I believe it will create a very valuable precedent for the OSCE in trying to cooperate in this manner with other countries, so that conflicts are managed; it could advance the process which, hopefully, we, contrary to rumors, began at the Budapest summit, so that Europe should be more secure, stable, and democratic.

[Molnar] What impact could this relationship have on Hungarian- Russian bilateral ties? It is feared that a conflict of sorts could emerge; there are increasingly frequent articles in the Russian press that intervention in Chechenya recalls the street fights in Budapest in 1956, that the Russians have not learned anything. Did you notice feelings of this type during your talks?

[Gyarmati] We generally try to keep feelings out of discussions. My conviction is that just as we try to keep our activity as OSCE chairman independent of immediate Hungarian national interests—since we feel that in this capacity we must represent the interests of the entire OSCE community, and not narrow Hungarian interests—we hope that others will do the same, and that what we are doing will be regarded not as part of bilateral relations, but as part of the activity of the OSCE chairman, which is currently held by Hungary.

Second, my belief is that if this has an impact on bilateral relations it will be very positive, and this was obviously reflected at my discussions with minister Kozyrev, because Hungary is seen—not only by Russia but by the other countries, and not only by the major powers but by others whom we have consulted and whom we will consult—as neutrally representing the interests of the community of European countries. This is seen in a positive light by everyone. I think that this will yield positive results for Hungary—which is what we otherwise expected of the [OSCE] chairmanship. [end recording]

OSCE Mediation in Chechnya Now 'Inexpedient'

MM1101150195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Russia Does Not Want to See OSCE Observers in the Caucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The acting chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] has sent his personal representative—Hungarian Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati—to Moscow to try to make the Russian leadership aware of Europe's concern about the Chechnya situation.

At a meeting with Valentin Kovalev, the new justice minister, the envoy from Vienna offered his services in settling the Chechen crisis, and said that the OSCE is ready to provide immediately as much help as it can in ending the war. The head of the Russian legal department, thanking the guest for his participation, diplomatically but firmly stated that at this stage of the disarmament of the illegal bandit formations and the restoration of constitutional order in Chechnya there is no need for the OSCE to get involved in the conflict. Valentin Kovalev explained that the "military side of the operation" is nearing completion and "purely peaceful means" of normalizing the situation will be coming into play. Restored organs of local power are starting to function in Chechnya, civilian life is being organized, and, consequently, Russia considers OSCE mediation to be inexpedient. V. Kovalev thereupon took his leave of I. Gyarmati and set off for the conflict zone.

We were told by the Pan-European Cooperation Department on Smolensk Square [Russian Foreign Ministry] that Gyarmati has continued his consultations in Moscow on this subject. He has met with Western

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ambassadors, visited the Foreign Ministry, and had talks with Andrey Kozyrev. He should be submitting his impressions and recommendations to the OSCE Standing Council in Vienna, which will meet 12 January to discuss the Chechnya problem. It is expected that at that conference the OSCE will request that Russia agree to a special mission being sent to Chechnya.

Judging by everything, Russia will object to this expedition. At any rate, its representative in Vienna—Ambassador Vladimir Shustov—has already received the necessary instructions on this score.

But it is possible that the OSCE will send a group of its own to Chechnya without Russia's consent. In accordance with the organization's documents and, in particular, with the "human dimension mechanism," applications from six of its members are sufficient to send a so-called "reporters' mission" to a conflict zone. They will collect information on the basis of the firm principle that the observance of human rights cannot be the internal affair of any individual country but is the common concern of the OSCE.

As for the mediators' mission to organize peace talks between the warring factions, there the OSCE has no mechanism of coercion. In this instance consensus is needed—in other words, the agreement of all parties without exception, including Russia.

NATO Urges 'Negotiated, Peaceful Solution' to Chechnya

LD1101173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels January 11 TASS—NATO urged the earliest possible end to violence in Chechnya, said a NATO spokesman who talked after NATO ambassadors met here on Wednesday to discuss the situation in the conflict-torn region. They called for "a negotiated, peaceful solution to the problem" and "proper access to be provided for humanitarian agencies," he said.

"While fully recognizing the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, NATO allies are deeply concerned with the developments in Chechnya, especially the tragic loss of life and destruction," the spokesman said.

The envoys also asserted their wish for progress in developing a stronger relationship with Russia.

Existing 'Problems' in Relations With Germany Examined

MM1101144595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Article by Vyacheslav Yelin: "Russia-Germany: Stagnation or Movement? Some Western Critics' Prophecies and Forecasts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Many foreign and indeed Russian analysts have painted the future of Russian-German relations following the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces [WGF] in far from rosy hues. They claim that, following the departure of the last Russian soldier from German territory, Bonn should cast aside the "mask of duplicity." From this moment on it is forecast that Russia and Germany should enter a period of some "inertia," in other words resolve various problems inherited from the Soviet period.

But some, like Italian political scientist Saverio Bertone, prophesy inevitable confrontation between the two countries: He ascribes to Germany a policy of geopolitical expansion and to Russia the role of a braking factor in the way of this.

In our view, neither these nor other forecasts can divine the real development of ties between the neighboring European states and they are all considerably mistaken in their forecasts.

The Russian troop withdrawal is an accomplished fact. A qualitatively new status has arisen in relations between our countries. It is this that gives us grounds to confirm or deny the pessimistic commentators' view of the real state of Russian-German relations. [passage omitted]

At the same time it would be wrong to say that bilateral relations are developing "without a hitch" as it were. There are plenty of problems here. Take trade and economic cooperation. It is indisputable that, compared with the Soviet period, there has been a drastic decline in reciprocal commodity turnover. Nevertheless Germany remains Russia's major trading and economic partner. Today the situation is gradually starting to rectify itself. During the first half of last year commodity turnover rose by 10 percent. And German firms make up 60 percent of foreign investors. Around 1,500 joint enterprises involving German capital (second after the United States) have been registered in the Russian Federation. And that number could rise still further were it not for German industrial circles' bias when it comes to the Russian market. Is this not why Germany exports eight times more goods to tiny Netherlands than to vast Russia? The persistent uncertainty over framework legal conditions and foreign investors on the Russian market is hampering the full restoration of trading links.

Nor can the fact that scientific and student exchange programs still do not match the level and scale of relations between our countries be deemed normal. It is hard to believe but as many Russians as citizens of the small African state of Uganda are studying at FRG universities. It is necessary to pay more serious attention to contacts between young people in the Russian Federation and the FRG, which are regrettably developing in accordance with the old standards.

Various exchanges with the FRG need improvements in the sphere of visas. We must not present one another

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with any obstacles. It is particularly important to prevent illegal encroachment on the rights of Russian and German citizens.

Needless to say, there are forces in Germany striving to modify the FRG Government's present foreign policy course toward Russia; they sometimes accuse Moscow of aspiring "to hegemony" in particular in the republics of the former USSR and deny it the right to obtain from the CSCE the go-ahead for freedom of action in the settlement of conflicts in the CIS "hot spots." Some people vigorously advocate the eastward expansion of NATO.

But there are enough sober politicians who realize that it is hard to place Russia in a "Procrustean bed" on the international arena. FRG Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel believes that "Russia like any other state has its own interests that will not always correspond with ours in every respect. There is absolutely no need for this lack of coincidence to pose a threat for us. We need a constructive policy geared to seeking compromise and confidence-building." In a word, people in the FRG are well aware that it is hard to exclude Russia from the economic, spiritual, and information area of Europe just as an effective system of stability and security cannot be created on the continent without it. Of course, Germany too has its own interests in various parts of Europe but that evidently does not mean that Bonn is reviving the spirit of "imperial policy" as some commentators try to say.

Something else prompts caution. Some Western politicians are not abandoning the hope of driving a wedge in the close Russian-German relations. They view with patent suspicion the FRG leaders' idea that relations between Russia and Germany are central to the fate of Europe. Bonn is also insistently advised to have some kind of "cordon sanitaire" between Russia and Germany.

It is cause for satisfaction that people in Bonn are trying to keep aloof from these recommendations and officially state the inadmissibility of any decline in relations with Russia after the WGF withdrawal. However I would like these statements, including those regarding the question of NATO expansion, to be more intelligible.

'No Information' on Russian Air Strikes Inside Afghanistan

LD1101152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Foreign Ministry has no information to the effect that the Russian military subjected Tajik refugee camps in Afghanistan to air strikes.

As a senior Russian diplomat told Interfax on Wednesday [11 January], his ministry received no official statements on this score from the U.S. Department of State.

According to the Western news media, on Tuesday the Department of State made a statement, expressing concern about the alleged bombing of Tajik refugee camps in Afghanistan by Russian aircraft and other violent acts on the Tajik-Afghan border.

As the Russian diplomat said, "the information concerning such a statement needs to be officially confirmed." Moscow "would like to receive explanations in connection with the bombing incident which occasioned the demarche of the U.S. Department of State," he pointed out.

Official on Freezing Russia's Council of Europe Admission

LD1101160795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevsky has called counter-productive the recommendation of the political committee of the Council of Europe to freeze Russia's admission following the developments in Chechnya.

In an interview with Interfax Wednesday [11 January] he said Moscow does not tend to dramatize the situation. "The very purpose of our membership is to use the potential of the organization to strengthen a law-governed state in Russia and respect human rights. If the Council of Europe wants to assume the position of a neutral onlooker, this will not benefit either Russia or the Council of Europe itself," the deputy minister said.

According to him, by recommending the parliamentary assembly suspend the discussion of Russia's admission members of the political committee wanted to get noticed. The decision is capable of slowing down or even putting off Russia's membership, Afanasyevsky admitted.

In his opinion "in the final account everything is going to depend on the developments in Chechnya. If light appears at the end of the Chechen tunnel, Russia's admission to the Council of Europe scheduled for May might take place. Not everything is lost," Afanasyevsky said.

The diplomat found the attitude of the CSCE much more satisfactory. "In connection with the Chechen developments the CSCE is ready to discuss the observation of human rights and offer help. This is a normal attitude of a partner," he concluded.

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Political Issues

Dudayev's Weapons, Yeltsin's Health Receive Note

LD1101204695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 11 January broadcasts the nine-minute "Details" program with Nikolay Svanidze.

Svanidze begins by saying that "the controversy over who supplied General Dudayev with arms continues. Yegor Gaydar, too, was named among the suspects, as is known." Video shows Gaydar who comments: "As regards the issue of handing over weapons, or the armed forces activities in general, I would stress once again that the Defense Ministry does not report anything to deputy prime ministers. For this purpose there are the supreme commander, the defense minister, and his structures. There is not a single government decision, instruction, resolution, letter, or telegram dealing with the handover of weapons that I signed or endorsed." Gaydar adds that such instructions and relevant documents are within the remit of the Defense Ministry.

Svanidze then says: "In yesterday's 'Nota Bene' program, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov voiced a view to the effect that Gen. Dudayev received heavy weapons from Pavel Grachev. This is interesting because the 'Nota Bene' program is openly described as an official body under the Russian president's information service. It is possible, therefore, to draw the conclusion or surmise that Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev does not have a very high standing in the Kremlin today. Rumors claiming that the defense minister will become a scapegoat among those responsible for the Chechen operation are not groundless. If this is so, Dzhokhar Dudayev will succeed where Pavel Gusev, editor-in-chief of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, has failed—that is, in removing Grachev. However, the matter will hardly be limited to just one minister. The obvious clumsiness of Russia's political and military efforts in Chechnya can seriously affect the balance of forces in Moscow".

Svanidze goes on to sum up the confrontation between Vladimir Polevanov, deputy prime minister and new chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property, and Anatoliy Chubays, deputy prime minister and Polevanov's predecessor. Svanidze says Polevanov banned some of Chubays's staff from their offices.

Yegor Gaydar and Aleksandr Livshits, presidential adviser on economic issues, then give their views on how the Chechen crisis may affect inflation in Russia.

Svanidze concludes: "Today Aleksandr Livshits met the president and they spoke for about an hour. According to Livshits, the president's excellent physical, moral, and psychological shape impressed him very much—and they do not meet very often. Livshits told me this quietly and with obvious pleasure. On the whole, judging by the quite intensive information coming from people who maintain contacts with the president, rumors alleging that the president's close entourage is making decisions for him are groundless."

Rybkin on Meeting With Yeltsin, Others

LD1101214195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—At President Yeltsin's meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the speakers of both houses of the Federal Assembly Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin on Wednesday a decision was made to instruct Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov to recompute the draft federal budget for 1995 in view of the spending on the Chechen crisis.

Ivan Rybkin told journalists after the meeting that the draft federal budget for this year and accompanying computations would be submitted to the State Duma on January 18, and not on January 13, as it was originally planned.

"I will make no secret of the fact that at the 'meeting of the four' it was stated that the armed forces must be reformed dramatically to improve their coordination," Rybkin said. "Probably it would make sense revive the good old Russian tradition and make the General Staff responsible for coordinating actions by all arms and services."

Rybkin said that the meeting lasted ninety five minutes and a wide range of issues was discussed. "We are certain that it would be impossible to put the situation in Chechnya on the peace track without the participation in that process of such authoritative people, who were received by the Prime Minister yesterday and who are affiliated with the association of Chechens living in Moscow. I had a meeting with them earlier," Rybkin said.

He said the four top officials were unanimous that those deputies from Chechnya, who were elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Former Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic in September 1991 must be restored to power as Chechnya's legitimate administration.

Rybkin said that the chairman of the council of Chechnya's elders had told him and the Council of the Federation that "eminent Chechens—academicians, professors, generals, economic managers and former leaders of the Chechen republic should not be idle spectators watching events in Chechnya from Moscow. In these days of trouble for Chechnya they should go to their home land to help it out of the crisis."

Rybkin said that armed gangs in Chechnya should lay down their arms and use the amnesty declared by the State Duma and the President.

Rybkin said that the federal authorities had drawn up a time- table for the transfer of facilities in Chechnya to a

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future provisional administration and the Russian Interior Ministry. That process will be controlled by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Rybkin said it had been agreed that the parliament's control functions must be administered in full compliance with the Constitution. President Yeltsin is going to sign without delay the law on the accounting chamber, already passed by both houses of the Federal Assembly in order to put that "important body of parliamentary control in operation."

Kremlin Seen To Shift Chechnya 'Tactics'

MM1101163595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Kremlin Beginning To Realize That Not Everything Can Be Resolved by Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The result of the two-hour meeting between B. Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin was the announcement of a temporary suspension of combat operations. This is seen as a substantial change of Kremlin tactics in the war against Dudayev's regime, the crux of which is to demonstrate to the country and the world its readiness to use peaceful means, as well as tanks and guns, to impose order in this republic.

Although the president and the premier spoke without onlookers, the main content of their conversation had already become known by the end of the day. B. Yeltsin voiced a very critical assessment of the course of the military operation in Chechnya, stressing at the same time that it is necessary to take all steps for the earliest possible start of the peacemaking process. The interlocutors agreed that it was a mistake to leave out civilian analysts, regional specialists, and legal experts when formulating this operation. As a result, V. Chernomyrdin once again took over command of the whole operation. A plan for the re-creation of structures of power in Chechnya has been approved, including a transitional government, along with the restoration of the ravaged economy and life in Chechnya.

In this connection at least two highly important questions arise. Why did the outlined modifications in favor of common sense in the Chechen operation emerge so late after huge casualties? Why was it necessary to once again confine the whole operation to the premier, even barring his first deputy O. Soskovets? The answer to the first of these questions can be found in an interview which S. Filatov, leader of the presidential staff, gave to your IZVESTIYA correspondent after a meeting with the president. This discussion broached a specific problem: How informed is the president on what is going on in Chechnya?

According to Filatov, the president is "absolutely and fully" in control of the situation. He is provided with a summarized report every day (using at least a dozen information sources). Material produced by the staff's analysis centers and the directorates for work with the territories, with public and political parties, and parliamentary factions is also appended to this report. Parties to the Treaty on [Social] Accord are also submitting their proposals. Specifically, a multitude of plans for the restoration of Chechnya's economy have been received of late from regions of the North Caucasus and commercial structures. The National Credit Bank has offered to participate in reviving industry and in certain other projects. All this information reaches the president and, as S. Filatov said, "he studies it and keeps his finger on the pulse."

What are the Kremlin's immediate plans for Chechnya? The following conclusion can be drawn from the conversation with the leader of the [presidential] staff—the truce has been declared in order to avoid even more bloodshed provided that Dudayev and his guerrillas agree to disarm. At the same time structures of power will conduct measures pertaining to the future of the Chechen Republic. In particular, consultations have begun with various forces in Chechnya itself and the Chechen diaspora abroad. A. Voiskiy, as a member of the Treaty on Accord's conciliation commission, is contacting Chechen entrepreneurs. R. Abdulatipov is preparing a meeting with the republic's clergy. Four territorial directorates comprising 156 staffers are already in operation in Chechnya under the command of N. Yegorov. V. Shumeyko is gathering together leaders of the republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus in order that they can provide assistance in restoring organs of power and government in Chechnya and in providing the population with food. B. Yeltsin has also begun political consultations with the North Caucasus leaders.

Nevertheless it is still too early to talk about an end to the strong-arm scenario for resolving the Chechen crisis. The Kremlin considers the disarmament of Dudayev's guerrillas to be a sine qua non, linking it with the direct threat of a repetition of this kind of situation in other regions. The only thing on which all branches of power agreed is on amnesty for the parties to these events. Clearly, this objective will not be secured either rapidly or easily. The Army will remain in Chechnya under arms. This means that there is still a danger of further bloodshed. What is more, even as the truce was announced the Kremlin suspected that Dudayev would try to use it to redeploy his guerrillas. But S. Filatov gave assurances that a shift has been firmly made toward nonviolent means of resolving the crisis.

Why then was the president's assurance at the memorable session of the Security Council that Groznyy would not be bombed ignored? Sergey Aleksandrovich effectively found no explanation for this fact. Although he did say at this point: "...We have a good Army. But the coordination of its actions with political structures and with MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] troops proved extremely unsatisfactory. There will be a serious discussion of this and the president will draw his conclusions.

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All in good time. But it must be said that we have found ourselves in a very difficult situation. We do not have any other force capable of coping with the huge number of guerrillas in Chechnya equipped with state-of-the-art arms. At the same time the Army is not designed for these purposes. Neither the Constitution nor legislation provide the appropriate legal base...."

Finally, S. Filatov explained to some extent the reason that prompted the Kremlin to take strong-arm action in Chechnya. According to him, by 26 November last year Dudayev had around 300-400 guerrillas. Then came a sharp influx of combat groups and mercenaries. The number ran into thousands, reports appeared of external support for Dudayev's regime and of preparations for provocations in neighboring regions of the North Caucasus. This carried the threat of a Caucasus-wide explosion. That is why the Security Council adopted the decision to start strong-arm actions.

It stems from what the leader of the presidential staff said that B. Yeltsin intends in future to monitor the Chechen operation more closely in an endeavor to make it more civilian. However, the fact of O. Soskovets' secretly being barred from Chechen affairs remained unclear. Nevertheless the editorial office has its own ideas on this score.

The editorial office has been apprised of information which a military source conveyed to Moscow from the area of combat operations: "1 January is P. Grachev's birthday; the day before O. Soskovets and some general (not an army general because I know our people) arrived to see him. There were celebrations.... Then the front-line positions received the command—those who capture the presidential palace in Groznyy will receive three Hero's stars 'on average.' Then...came the bloodbath at New Year. Many people were killed, both Chechens and our people. But the palace was not taken...."

This report in many respects explains the illogical and ferocious operation undertaken by Russian units 31 December, which has not hitherto been explained. It also sheds light on the fact that control over the Chechen operation has reverted to V. Chernomyrdin. B. Yeltsin is probably thus trying to personally oversee everything going on in Chechnya. Albeit belatedly, as you can see. Too many inexplicable things have already happened in the five weeks of war and presumably there will be set-tos in the upper echelons sooner or later over this.

Democrats Urge 'Punishment' of Secessionists

LD1101145495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Russia's Democratic Party faction in the State Duma said on Wednesday [11 January] that it backs the federal stance on Chechnya and will urge "an investigation and punishment of those guilty of the development and legalization of the criminal regime" in the secessionist Chechen republic.

The faction suggested that a "special parliament commission with the broadest competences" be formed for the purpose.

"Russian servicemen in Chechnya defend the rightful interests of the Russian Federation", said the faction's statement circulated in the State Duma.

Officials on Origin of Chechen Weaponry

LD1101164995 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2352 GMT 10 Jan 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement made by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the president's representative with the Rosvooruzheniye company, on Sunday [8 January] to Russian Television's "Vesti" program has added heat to the journalistic and public investigations that have begun informally into the origin of the large quantity of modern, expensive, and at times secret weapons in Chechnya. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and even Yegor Gaydar are among those who have been named as the culprits during the last few days. The "Nota Bene" program presents fragments from two exclusive interviews which we recorded today. They deal with the one topic—the origin of the weapons being used in Chechnya.

There was a curious rally in Groznyy during the August coup in 1991. Dudayev, who was then the chairman of the executive committee of the Chechen people, came out decisively in favor of democracy which was embodied in Moscow by Boris Yeltsin. Dudayev then presented himself as an opponent of communism, bribery, and corruption. In September 1991, a month before he became president, he had around 5,000 guards at his disposal armed only with homemade guns, rifles, and double barrelled shotguns. All of the weapons of Soviet army units stationed in Chechnya were at storehouses and the troops were in their garrisons. In November 1991, Dudayev opposed communism in Chechnya and became president.

[Shaposhnikov] "Dudayev said to me: comrade defense minister, I assure you that while I am here no bombs will ever fall on a Soviet soldier."

[Unidentified correspondent] But what was this about and what were these stocks of weapons which were spoken of in 1991 and which are spoken about now that the shooting has begun?

[Khasbulatov] "Well, there are for example up to 70,000 automatic firearms and over 100 tanks from the famous Shali tank regiment."

[Correspondent] The beginning of 1992 brought reports in the media about more and more frequent attacks by Chechens on army stores. However, Moscow said weapons could not be seized because the storehouses

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were mined. Former Speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov considers that he kept the situation under control.

[Khasbulatov] "I said very firmly then to Shaposhnikov: do not even think of leaving heavy weapons, in particular, on the territory of the Chechen republic."

[Shaposhnikov] "I do not know of such instructions."

[Correspondent] At the same time, Shaposhnikov himself was repeatedly sending his deputies, Pavel Grachev and Boris Gromov to Chechnya to resolve this issue. In May 1992, Pavel Grachev became defense minister and shortly after his appointment the events occurred which the media is now discussing. That is, the division of military property in two, between Russia and Chechnya. However, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov adds one important detail to this.

[Shaposhnikov] "On 26 May Pavel Grachev issued a directive that was passed to the command of the North Caucasus military district. A telegram was sent which gave instructions for 50 percent of weapons, ammunition, weapons, hardware, arms, and two loads of ammunition to be divided and moreover it gave instructions for the remainder to be sold. That is the remainder which was not divided should be sold on the spot."

[Khasbulatov] "On the one hand, Dudayev was selling this hardware to many other countries, in the near east and in other countries. And on the other hand he was purchasing arms cheaply from the disintegrating units of the Soviet Union. In general, he was considered an arms exporter. It is no secret that there was quite a tolerant attitude towards this man.[no end quotation mark as received]

[Correspondent] Dudayev cleverly played the role of a friend to Moscow. It is difficult to say when he decided that it was time to stop playing the good little democrat and embark on the serious work of creating an independent state. Only one thing is clear at the moment. He obtained a lot of modern weaponry. Incidentally, according to data from the Defense Ministry's main information directorate, 80 percent of his military hardware and 75 percent of his firearms were stolen by his people from units of the Groznyy garrison while Shaposhnikov was defense minister. Yevgeniy Ivanovich himself denies this.

[Shaposhnikov] "I did not receive any reports of this."

[Correspondent] Investigations will definitely take place. As with Black Tuesday, this may be handed over to the Security Council. However, one thing is obvious even without investigation.

[Shaposhnikov] "I, for example, did not think that this question was that acute right up until the attacks, when we started to mine the storehouses. I thought that the political will would be found in Russia to stop this process in some way. And of course, no one took this issue seriously. But I do not know why we sat by, saying nothing for three years."

[Correspondent] Unfortunately, we did not manage to present Defense Minister Grachev's view on the origin of the weapons in Chechnya. Perhaps it will be set out at the briefing at the Defense Ministry tomorrow.

Shumeyko on Chechnya's Transitional Government

LD1101153695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1511 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Jan—The transitional government of the Chechen Republic "will not be formed by Moscow." It "can only be formed on a legal basis on behalf of the Chechen people." As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, this was the conclusion reached by the participants in today's meeting between the Russian president and the chairmen of both chambers of the Federal Assembly and the prime minister.

According to Vladimir Shumeyko, the Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush SSR, which was overthrown by Dudayev, currently remains the only legal body. "There is not a single document which would revoke its powers," he noted.

The Chechen part of this body must prepare elections in Chechnya, the speaker of the Federation Council pointed out.

Military Official on 'Last' Bombing Raid

LD1101171395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The Russian Army carried out the last bombing raid on military targets in the Chechen capital Groznyy at 18:50 on December 24, 1994, Air Force Commander Petr Deynekin said on Wednesday.

Deynekin said that the Air Force units of the Russian troops in Chechnya had strictly observed President Boris Yeltsin's order to halt bombing in Groznyy.

Speaking at a news conference at the Defence Ministry headquarters in Moscow on Wednesday, Deynekin said that over the past two days warplanes had not taken part in fighting in Chechnya and been observing the 48-hour truce announced on Tuesday. Military cargo planes continued to deliver humanitarian aid to the region and evacuate the wounded, he added.

Deynekin also said that Air Force units had not lost a single soldier in the Chechen conflict.

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At the same time, he admitted that warplanes had continued to bomb illegal armed groups' bases and arms caches outside the city, using high-precision laser-guided rockets and bombs.

Pellet bombs were dropped on the concentrations of illegal armed bands outside towns and settlements. He said that Russian troops had not used the so-called needle bombs banned by an international convention.

Deynekin pointed out that several Russian warplanes had been damaged during reconnaissance flights in the first days of fighting when illegal armed groups' resistance was especially fierce.

He also said that, like in the Army in general, Air Force pilots lacked the necessary skills and combat training. The shortage of funds and fuel have prevented many military pilots from completing flight training to meet the established requirements, under which every pilot should fly 180-240 hours a year. At the same time, he stressed that operations in Chechnya involved only true professionals.

Kovalev Expresses Regret Over Truce Failure

LD1101151995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—Sergey Kovalev, Russia's human rights commissioner, expressed regret that the 48-hour truce in Chechnya has failed.

In a telephone conversation with his aide in Moscow Wednesday [11 January] afternoon Kovalev said that he had hoped for a real truce "but it has failed."

"No one can guarantee that Chechen fighters did not shoot from small guns in some parts of the city after 8:00 January 10 when the truce came into effect. Maybe the governmental reproach of the Chechen party with violation of the truce is just," Kovalev said.

"But this does not concern the presidential palace," he underlined. "The presidential palace is an exception in all events going on in Groznyy. As before, it was a target and was shelled by the Russian party from artillery guns. There was no counterfire from the palace."

"In either event the truce has failed. The wounded were not evacuated and nor were the corpses," Kovalev reported.

Concurrently, Kovalev urged all Russian mothers to help stop the war in Chechnya. His letter says that Generals Grachev, Kvashnin and Shevtsov had refused to discuss the possibility of a truce, saying they were busy. Kovalev said that he had received the commission to discuss the truce from Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and that this question had been coordinated with President Yeltsin. However, shortly after the generals refused to discuss this question the government published a statement "aimed at foiling ceasefire," says Kovalev's letter. He also said that the generals oppose the idea of talks because they do not want anyone to count the number of dead bodies, or keep the POWs alive. He urged Russian mothers "to do something for the Russian POWs in Groznyy."

Provides New Peace Proposals

LD1101222595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2200 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev has made new proposals for moving toward a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. These include an immediate halt to the use of aircraft, artillery, rockets, and armor by both sides along with the ceasefire, the creation of a joint commission of observers to separate the sides; the creation of a safe area for the exchange of prisoners and recovery of the bodies of those killed; the withdrawal of Russian troops and Interior Ministry forces to their permanent bases; and, as part of the political settlement, the holding of a public roundtable in Chechnya to formulate a delegation for negotiations without preliminary conditions with Russia.

Dispora Member on Chernomyrdin-Dudayev Meeting

MM1201085795 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[Telephone interview with Makhmud Esambayev, president of the International Association of Stage Performers, by Valeriy Kachurin; place and date not given: "Makhmud Esambayev: 'We Asked the Premier To Meet With Dudayev....'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin took one of the first real steps at peacemaking in the "Chechen bloodbath." The day before yesterday he met with the Chechen diaspora in Moscow. After this meeting we telephoned one of its participants, Makhmud Esambayev, president of the International Association of Stage Performers.

[Kachurin] Following your meeting with Chernomyrdin the mass media carried a report that the head of the Russian Government will meet with Dzhokhar Dudayev in the near future. Is that possible?

[Esambayev] We suggested that scenario and Viktor Stepanovich agreed. "That is possible," he said, And for our part we will do everything to ensure that this meeting goes ahead. Russia's prime minister—indisputably, a farsighted man—in my view, emphasized the only correct thing during the conversation, namely a peaceful quest for ways to mutual accord in resolving the bloody conflict. The people cannot be "persuaded" by force, by barbaric methods as Defense Minister Grachev is doing.

[Kachurin] In a television report you spoke very sternly about the government led by a former union minister and academician being formed in Chechnya....

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[Esambayev] Yes, I called it a puppet government and I am convinced that the people will hardly like it. Not because people do not like the academician—he is an intelligent, efficient man. But once again he has been appointed to the throne whereas he should be elected by the people. Everyone knows that I did not support General Dudayev's regime but President Yeltsin's biggest mistake in my view is that he brushed him aside like a troublesome fly and did not condescend to have talks with him. As you know, someone who has been humiliated and rejected has nothing to lose. Might that be the reason for the bloodshed in Chechnya?

Dudayev Stands Convinced Chechnya 'Will Win'

AU1201090595 Vienna NEWS in German 12 Jan 95 p 33

[Interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by Tamerlan Kunta and Karl Wendl "in a small farmhouse" in Chechnya; date not given: "Dudayev Tells NEWS: 'We Will Win!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wendl] Since Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev left the heavily embattled presidential palace in Groznyy, he has not given any interviews. NEWS, together with German Red Cross employee Tamerlan George Kunta from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, found Boris Yeltsin's archenemy nevertheless. Kunta is the son of writer and dissident Abdu Rakhman Avtorkhanov, 86. The famous writer is a Chechen and is venerated in his homeland. He has lived in exile in Germany since World War II. There he wrote books like "Technology of Power" or "Genocide in the Soviet Union" and "The Genocide of the Chechens." He is the only writer in the West who has been writing for decades about the Chechens' liberation struggle against imperialist Moscow. Because of his age, he was unable to go to the area of war in person. Therefore, his son went in his place.

Tamerlan Kunta's Chechen friends took me to Groznyy. We are supposed to meet our contacts at the crossing between Kirov Prospekt and Garden Street in Groznyy. The street is lighted by a flickering fire. An airplane bomb has hit and destroyed a gas pipe. The gas is leaking and burns with a ghostly shimmer. From the city center we hear the dark rumbling of the bombs that find their targets. Shortly before New Year's Eve a U.S. journalist died at this crossing. Grenade splinters tore her head off.

Three men pick us up. They are wearing camouflage suits and are heavily armed. Tamerlan is supposed to pass a letter from his father to Dudayev. We are taken out of the embattled city with two cars. Checkpoints are circumvented on secret routes. After 45 minutes we have reached our destination. To my surprise it is not in the mountains but in the flat countryside. A small village, an inconspicuous farmhouse. Some kind of square farmhouse, of the kind we know from Austria's Burgenland province. Here we are supposed to wait for Dudayev. The president arrives 20 minutes later. The former commander of a Soviet nuclear bomber squadron is wearing a uniform: a military jacket and a garrison cap. His thin moustache is perfectly trimmed, as usual. Despite the constant Russian attacks he almost looks relaxed. Tamerlan hands over his father's letter. Then he retreats with Dudayev to another room. For NEWS he conducted the following interview:

[Kunta] You are fighting against one of the world's most powerful armies. What do you expect?

[Dudayev] We have shown to all the world that the Red Army is nothing but a corrupt mess, torn by strife. When will the West finally understand that Russia has just been bluffing for decades? The strength of the Russian Army does not really exist. We will end our fight in victory in any case. Chechnya will remain free!

[Kunta] Did you expect the invasion of the Russian troops?

[Dudayev] Actually, we only expected Russia to carry out administrative actions to keep our country in this federation. But we are also very well prepared for a military conflict. Actually, we expected something to happen ever since we declared our independence in 1991. Russia will have to recognize that we will never live under a colonial power.

[Kunta] Are the people fighting for their president?

[Dudayev] The Chechen people are fighting neither for President Dudayev nor for any other leader. We are all fighting for the freedom of our country, for independence from Moscow. Regardless of what has happened we do not feel hatred for Russia. We are willing to start negotiations with President Yeltsin at any time. Our goal is a sovereign state, which is not forced to submit to Russia's hegemony. Our fight is not a fight against the Russian people but a fight against the corrupt political leadership.

The attacks of the Russian Army have shown that Russia is no longer a superpower. Chechnya has proved that there are no longer small, weak peoples. The size of the population (Chechnya has 1.3 million inhabitants) does not say anything about strength or weakness. Our motivation is our striving for freedom and independence. The Russian soldiers, on the other hand, have no idea what they are actually fighting for. I am convinced that my country will win this battle.

I know the Russian Army, the internal collapse of its authority, the soldiers' lack of motivation. I also know the superficial, cynical behavior of the political leadership clique. Dozens of Russian soldiers who have been taken prisoner or have defected to us, told us that they were completely unprepared for this war. Yeltsin announced a penal expedition. Now he has a war.

[Kunta] Groznyy's inner city is destroyed, the presidential palace is under constant fire. How long will your soldiers hold out?

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[Dudayev] For a long time. Apart from that, the palace is not of strategic importance. It is a crime to sacrifice so much material and so many people just to conquer a building. Even if the presidential palace were to fall into Russian hands, this would not mean that the resistance would collapse.

[Kunta] Two weeks ago in a video recording, which was passed on to journalists, you threatened that you would also use terrorist means if Groznyy were to fall.

[Dudayev] We are not terrorists. We have never been terrorists, and we will not use terrorist means even under pressure—nor do we want to cause any nuclear accidents or provoke nuclear attacks. Of course, we are not killing Russian prisoners-of-war, either. On the contrary: The prisoners are treated well, some of them even stay in the private homes of our volunteers. There they help out, make small repairs, or make themselves useful in other ways. No one need fear for his life.

[Kunta] Moscow demands that Chechnya disarm all rebels.

[Dudayev] This is impossible! This is a popular uprising. The people have armed themselves to enforce their right to self- determination. This fight has nothing to do with Dudayev as a person. It is a fight of the people, of the families, and their relatives against the lying propaganda of the Russian Government.

Kovalev Demands Troops Not Fire on Ingush

LD1201133895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1314 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev today called on the Russian Government to "immediately give troops clear, unambiguous, written orders ruling out the use of weapons against the civilian population of Ingushetia."

The appeal—the text of which was distributed in the State Duma—was made because participants in a rally organized by a number of Ingush organizations in the village of Sleptsovskaya (Republic of Ingushetia) intend to block with demonstrators the route being taken by the federal troops' armored vehicles through Ingushetia to Groznyy.

The human rights commissioner fears that "this may end in tragedy" and cannot rule out that it "will be seen as provocation by those who would like the war in Chechnya to continue and to spread to Ingushetia".

Sergey Kovalev calls on the government not only to give the troops the order not to use weapons but also to make the content of this order public.

Government Updates Situation in Chechnya

LD1201133995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1246 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Russian Federation Government today passed the following release to ITAR-TASS:

"According to reports from the advance group of the Russian Federation Government press service, over the past few days formations of the federal troops have continued to observe the truce conditions. They have transported reserves, moved troops forward, and cordoned-off streets. Airfield sapper units are repairing the Groznyy-North airfield; the runway has already been repaired.

"Ministry of Internal Affairs troops are carrying out military operations to establish the locations of armed groups and their weapons, and are disarming them. They are also repairing the Mozdok-Chervlennaya section of the railroad.

"Over the past 24 hours the Air Force has been carrying out air reconnaisance, and transporting freight and personnel.

"It is planned to regroup and replace troops on 12 January, and to prepare units for further action.

"In the past 24 hours, a Ministry of Emergency Situations taskforce has taken six tonnes of food to Nazran, and also three railroad freight car loads of humanitarian aid to Gudermes.

"One-hundred-and-six refugees have been taken from Tolstoy-Yurt to Mozdok.

"There is confirmation of information that illegal armed formations are exploiting the truce that has been declared for their own ends. Federal troops are still being fired on. Around 100 14-year-olds have been assembled in the villages around Groznyy, with the aim of reinforcing illegal armed formations in the town.

"Refugees from Chechnya continue to arrive on the territory of Ingushetia. Members of Dudayev's government have been seen among them. They arrive with bodyguards, and usually move into houses with their relatives. They plan to fly abroad from there.

"The food situation for refugees in the area controlled by the Western Group of Federal Troops is critical, and soldiers give some of their provisions to the civilian population.

"Restoration of the entire length of the railroad is hear completion. This will permit the lifting of the blockade and the restoration of a flow of goods into Dagestan and the TransCaucasus."

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Zhirinovskiy Denies Chernomyrdin Meeting

LD1101233195 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday we reported about a meeting behind closed doors between Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and the Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia].

In an exclusive interview to NTV, Zhirinovskiy has denied the meeting took place.

Chernomyrdin's press service today explained that the Russian prime minister is ready to discuss with the leaders of the State Duma deputies' groups their business proposals with regard to settling the situation in Chechnya. At the same time, Viktor Chernomyrdin unequivocally refuses to discuss the political aspects of the Chechen crisis.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press service that the brief meeting between Chernomyrdin and the LDPR leader should be interpreted only in this context.

Communists Oppose Russia's Choice Amendments

LD1101195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 11 (Interfax)—The Communist Party's parliamentary group will not support the constitutional amendments stepping up the supervisory function of parliament that Russia's Choice has drafted.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said at a news conference Wednesday that these amendments had been rejected by experts. On the other hand, the State Duma's Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform Committee has drafted its own package of amendments, he added.

Committee member Anatoliy Lukyanov, former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said that the amendments called for parliamentary supervision over the formation of the government. In particular, the force ministers would have to be approved by parliament, the two houses of the Federal Assembly would be able to hold joint sessions and set up parliamentary commissions to scrutinize the activities of executive structures.

The amendments would also make the dissolution of the State Duma possible only with the approval of the Constitutional Court.

Zyuganov called again for a joint meeting of the Federation Council and the State Duma with members of the National Security Council in attendance to try to end the madness in Chechnya and have the warring sides negotiate.

Soskovets on Economic Aid for Chechnya

LD1101174095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1532 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The Russian Government has approved a programme of federal ministries and departments for economic rehabilitation of Chechnya, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told a meeting of the governmental operating headquarters today.

Soskovets said Chechnya's annual oil output had dropped from ten to two million tonnes, while the republic requires close to four million tonnes to meet its own needs only.

It was stated that Chechnya's health care system is in demise. Actually all hospitals are closed down, and there are no physicians. The Russian Health Ministry is sending a first medical team of 300 to Chechnya.

Transportation Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev said transit across Chechnya was restored by now, and the first train would cross this territory en route to Makhachkala, Daghestan, on January 13.

The meeting was told that the Russian company "Ees Rossiya" would provide constant power supplies to Chechnya. Humanitarian convoys will continue to be sent to the republic.

Chernomyrdin Discusses Chechnya 'Rehabilitation'

LD1101134195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1253 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Jan—Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian government, discussed today with the leaders of the North Caucasus region and adjacent oblasts the possibility of recruiting local resources for the rehabilitation of the economy of the Chechen Republic.

At the conference at government headquarters Viktor Chernomyrdin reported that on a federal level immediate measures are already being taken to restore normal living conditions in the Chechen Republic, and also to restore its economy in accordance with the decision of the country's Security Council. The head of government voiced the hope that local bodies of executive power will have already been formed by the time that full-scale aid begins to arrive during the Chechen transition period. The central headquarters for coordinating measures to restore the Chechen economy will be situated in Moscow and will be headed by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, who at present heads the government's operational headquarters for Chechnya.

Today the decisions reached with the regional leaders will be submitted to President Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

On the subject of the activities of the federal authorities, the government has given instructions to the ministries

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of agriculture, construction, and social welfare to help the Chechen Republic and these are already being carried out, the Russian premier emphasized. "However, it cannot be done without your help," he noted, "as this work demands significant financial, material, human, and other resources."

Before the meeting with the premier, questions concerning economic aid to the Chechen Republic were discussed at a meeting of Russian Federation Federation Council members from Adygea, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabarda-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia, Krasnodar, and Stavropol territories and Rostov region and leaders and representatives of the chamber's committees. Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federation Council, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the aim of this meeting was "to single out from the whole complex of Chechen problems the preparation of a general plan for economic aid and the restoration of the Chechen economy and the normalization in general of life in the region."

Yuriy Algunov, Russian Federation Federation Council press secretary, at the meeting at the chamber also touched on the national-political issue. Events in Chechnya have promoted in particular the circulation of "ethnic-nationalist appeals for unity on a nationalist-ethnic basis," he said. The Federation Council leadership thinks that this is a very alarming tendency as it could lead to events developing in a Yugoslav fashion. In counterbalance to this the need was expressed for the "enlargement of the constituent parts of the federation" along the lines of the previous national economic councils. A considered centrist position needs to be worked out and maintained in practice, the press secretary noted.

Migration Service Updates Refugee Situation

LD1101142795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1327 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Jan—During 24 hours on 10 January, 1117 forced migrants from the conflict area applied to the migration services in regions adjacent to Chechnya. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was given this information by the press service of the Russian Federal Migration Service [FMS].

From the start of the conflict on 8 December, the service has registered 60,839 refugees from Chechnya. Over 6,000 people have been accepted by provisional refugee centers and temporary centers for accommodating refugees. According to the service's experts' estimates, the number of migrants has topped 130,000 persons, most of whom are staying with relatives and friends. According to the preliminary information of the Chechen republic's national revival government, over 40,000 persons that have left Groznyy and adjacent areas are in the territory that the government controls.

The Russian FMS has allotted 11 billion rubles for aid to the migrants, including 3 billion to Dagestan, 1 billion to Ingushetia, 0.5 billion to Chechnya itself, and also to North Ossetia, the Stavropol and Krasnodar kray and other near-by oblasts.

Stepashin on 'Large' Chechnya FCS Office

LD1101203495 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Jan 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Today we have an exclusive interview with Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service [FCS]. This material from Chechnya was prepared by our television agency jointly with the state television and radio company, Kuban.

[Vladimir Runov, over video of a meeting showing Chechen Interim Council chairman Avturkhanov speaking; Stepashin stands next to him] Federal Counter-Intelligence Service director Sergey Stepashin and Chechen Interim Council chairman Umar Avturkhanov have addressed a meeting today at the Ishcherskaya station of the Naurskiy Rayon of Chechnya. The railway troops have already restored the tracks in this section. There will be no civil war in Chechnya, Sergey Stepashin stated to journalists after the meeting ended.

[Stepashin] "On the whole, everything involving military actions will be over in January."

[Runov] According to the FCS director, the Interior Ministry will be working in Groznyy in the nearest future. It will be engaged in carrying its direct duties: confiscating weapons and fighting crime.

[Stepashin] "However, there will be very big problems with the south, of course. Quite substantial groups of militants moved into mountains in the south. There are country houses formerly belonging to the oblast and town party committees, the stronghold areas. Undoubtedly, the Interior Ministry and us—and we are going to set up one of the largest directorates of the Federal Counter- Intelligence Service here—will have to work using the sad, or not so sad, experience of the post-war era when the fighting of bandit formations was going on. There is a lot of work to be done." [passage omitted]

[Runov] The FCS director believes that most regions are already returning to normal life.

[Stepashin] "Chairman of the interim council of the town of Gudermes has requested, on behalf of the elders, that I visit their town. I had discussed this today with Viktor Stepanovich [Yerin], and we agreed. And, generally, we shall decide there the question of the town returning to normal life; it actually recognizes the Russian Federation's constitution. The main thing today is not the military action any more, not the military operation, but normal life."

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[Runov] Asked about his views on the media coverage of the Chechen crisis, Stepashin said:

[Stepashin] "Only the lazy will not bash the media these days, so I shall not go into this matter. Frankly, I think it was our own mistake we made at the very beginning. We should have given those Russian journalists access to our troops so that they could work and cover events objectively, from this side, so to speak. Alas, there was certain over-reaction; journalists were simply not allowed access and so the principle 'we shall treat you as you treat us' was at work here. And, since we are talking about the media, here is the last thing. What I should like to ask: there is, you understand, a simply human understanding of pain, disaster, grief. And constantly showing corpses—is it a sort of necrophilia? This is dishonest, after all. It is not the Russian custom. Death means human grief and to constantly wind people up—I imagine a mother seeing her dear child—are we not human, after all, for God's sake?"

[Runov] The FCS director is convinced that after law and order in Groznyy is restored, the tone of the media will change.

MVD, FCS Officials Brief Press

LD1201010995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 95

[Report on news conference given by Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Vorozhtsov; and Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service public relations center, by correspondent Georgiy Savchov in Moscow on 11 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the information services of the two power-wielding ministries avoided giving answers to journalists' specific questions: Why do Russian soldiers open fire on cars with the word "press" written on them? Why can video and audio equipment be seized at any time and not returned? Why are a number of journalists not permitted into the conflict zone at all?

The answer was the same: These questions need careful investigation. Interior Ministry [MVD] spokesman Vladimir Vorozhtsov said that according to his department's assessments, if the Dudayev regime falls the disarmament process will proceed more quickly and that the opposition is ready to surrender weapons. In his view the mass media are distorting facts. Clashes are taking place not with home guards [narodnoye opolcheniye] but with well-trained armed militants. Even though the heroism of some turns out to be the stupidity of others on closer examination, this does detract from the heroism.

Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] public relations center, said that morale in the Russian troops is fairly high, inasmuch as they see the kind of enemy they are dealing with. In his view Dudayev does not control the situation at all and is no longer in Groznyy. The uncoordinated armed but well-trained groups of militants and foreign mercenaries, under the cover of a shield of elderly people, women, and children, are trying to break through the blockades and leave the conflict zone by any means. Here is Aleksandr Mikhaylov:

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] We have lately been coming up against instances of particular cruelty on the part of the armed forces, who are tying our prisoners of war to the sides of armored vehicles and to the windows of buildings against which strikes might possibly be carried out. They are being used as live shields so the armed forces can complete their tasks. We have fairly detailed information about the disposition of Dudayev's military subunits. Out of the Chechen Republic's 11 rayons, only 3 support—we will not even say the Dudayev regime—but simply forces are massed there which by and large have nowhere to retreat to. Most of these militants on the territory of these rayons are up to their arms in blood. They understand perfectly well the consequences which threaten them if they fall into the hands of the federal authority bodies. [end recording]

FCS Denies Knowledge of Journalist's Murderer

LD1101215695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—Director of the public relations center of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) [FCS] Aleksandr Mikhailov denied information of the Izvestiya newspaper alleging that the FSK knew the name of the murderer of journalist of the Moskovskiy Komsomolets newspaper Dmitriy Kholodov.

"FSK Director Sergey Stepashin has not sent to the Russian president any message containing the name of the murderer of Kholodov as the Izvestiya said referring to unnamed sources," Mikhailov told Interfax today.

He said the investigation was continuing and "active search is underway."

"As the investigation is carried out by the Prosecutor's Office the FSK has no right to comment it or send somewhere any documents on the issue. The version of the Izvestiya alleging that the murderer of Kholodov is in the zone of the Chechen conflict looks especially strange," Mikhailov said.

He said he disapproved of the attempt to confront the FSK and the army as the Izvestiya tried in its publication.

Sources of the Izvestiya said that the FSK knew the name of the murderer of Kholodov who was allegeably a paratrooper of a military unit stationed in the Moscow Region. The Izvestiya said the man had left for the zone of the Chechen conflict together with his unit.

Kholodov had been investigating corruption in the army. He was killed by an explosion in the editorial

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office of his newspaper last autumn. Kholodov brought to the editorial office a briefcase taken from the cloakroom of a Moscow railway station. Kholodov expected to find in the briefcase some documents interesting him. The briefcase exploded.

Government Issues Public Television Order

MM1101130395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Government directive No. 2020, dated Moscow, 30 December 1994 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin: "The Scope of Russian Public Television"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In execution of the Russian Federation president's edict No. 2133 "On Improving the Operation of the First Frequency Channel (Moscow City) and Its Distribution Network," dated 29 November 1994 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 32, 1994, p 3322):

1. The Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Russian Ministry of Communications are to grant the "Obshchestvennoye Rossiyskoye Televideniye" Joint-Stock Company, within one month of the registration of the company's charter, a license to broadcast on the first television frequency channel (Moscow City) and its distribution network, including the "Orbita" television program broadcasting network, and a license for communications activity in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting in line with current legislation.

2. The Russian Ministry of Communications is, as of 1 February 1995, to ensure the relaying of the programs of the "Obshchestvennoye Rossiyskoye Televideniye" Joint-Stock Company on the first frequency channel (Moscow City) and on the "Moskva-Globalnaya" satellite television system, retaining the network and the conditions of broadcasting of programs of the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

3. The Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Ministry of Finance, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russsian Ministry of Communications, the Russian Ministry of Justice, the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, the Russian State Customs Committee, the Russian State Taxation Service, and the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting are to prescribe the legal arrangements governing economic activity as defined in Paragraph 3 of the aforementioned edict for the "Obshchestvennoye Rossiyskoye Televideniye" Joint-Stock Company which is being set up.

On questions requiring Russian Federation Government decisions, agreed proposals are to be submitted in accordance with set procedure.

4. The Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property is, within two weeks, to:

determine jointly with the Russian Ministry of Finance the form of the state's contribution of at least 51 percent of incorporation capital;

draw up jointly with other institutions a draft charter for the "Obshchestvennoye Rossiyskoye Televideniye" Joint-Stock Company and to submit it to the Russian Federation Government.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Television Seen as 'Hostile' to Yeltsin

MM1101154595 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 2

[Article by lawyer Yuriy Ivanov, Russian State Duma deputy: "Take Away the Snuff-Box"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The editorial article in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, "Snow Falling," (19 November 1994) was undoubtedly a prophetic catchtune for the past year. Briefly its content can be reduced to the following. A group of Moscow financiers and politicians has started a struggle whose aim is to put their henchman, Moscow Mayor Luzhkov, in the post of Russian president. The first stage of this group's activity is to win over the mass media and has almost been completed.

The article was written before the Chechen events and I should stipulate in advance that I shall not touch on the enormous complex of very intricate issues connected with that tragedy. It seems to me extremely important today to talk about how these events are being covered in the prodemocratic mass media. An analysis of the actions of the chameleon that is the democratic mass media over the past mo.th makes it possible to draw a main conclusion. A new stage is arriving in Russia's life which can hypothetically be called the period of Yeltsin's carrying-out.

Chechnya is merely the pretext for the attack. A war on Yeltsin has already been declared—fire has been opened using all the radio airwaves and television channels. And the collage in the "youth newspaper" in which Yeltsin is superimposed on a background of corpses in Groznyy is merely one of the first swallows. What is yet to come...

"Russia's Choice" acts as the main shock force. Gaydar is constantly on television, dinning into our heads his "discovery" that Russia is becoming an authoritarian police state. And it is clear to everyone who is the dictator. In the criticism of Yeltsin emphasis is placed on ridiculing and humiliating the individual. Indicative on this plane are the statements by V. Fedorov—former minister of finances: He is telling everyone that Yeltsin is a "buffoon," adding that "not a single thinking man will

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vote for him." It is notable that these pearls are published by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. Countless similar examples can be cited. And, of course, the mass media have organized through their sieve a flood of "information from the West" which, it turns out, completely denounces the Russian authorities' actions. But the compradors want more than denunciation. They are already asking the West out loud not to give Russia credits until Yeltsin has done their will. Will the government be able to implement its programs without these credits? That is unimportant, the main thing is to let it feel the muzzle....

But what in this situation has been the conduct of the eggheads from the president's apparatus or from the ideological centers which it finances who seemingly by virtue of their official position should defend their chief? They have joined the "attackers." They are merely operating more covertly. They are not criticizing the president directly—they are going for the "power ministers." But since it is obvious that not a single shot can be fired on Groznyy without the president's direct instructions, it is clear to every television viewer that it is primarily Yeltsin personally who is to blame. At best the members of all kinds of councils meekly babble: "I knew nothing about the introduction of troops into Chechnya, they did not coordinate it with me (?)." You didn't know? But now that there are thousands of bodies there you do know? You consider these actions immoral and intolerable? Then get out! You don't have to bang the door, but get out. Otherwise, who are you?

Yeltsin is a symbol of today's system and its course and by virtue of that fact alone I cannot find any good words for him. But, raised on the lawyer's simple and honorable principle of fighting "to the last" for his client, I observe with amazement today's duplicitous muttering by the president's fellow fighters. They are simply scum. They are preparing for their future jobs. Although need does not threaten them, since many are still receiving a salary from abroad in the form of scientific grants, which, unabashed, they state themselves.

I shall not argue with the authors of the article "Snow Falling" who believe that Luzhkov is laying claim to the post of president but I shall note that the chances of the Moscow mayor end at the Moscow ringroad. And if you remove the federal government from the capital and remove the benefits bestowed on it then all that is left for the mayor is to bury himself with the Bethlehem stone at his beloved church of Christ the Savior. Today it is becoming increasingly clear that it is not Luzhkov but the "Russia's Choice" member Sergey Kovalev who will be the henchman of our Westernizing democrats. The campaign to make him president has essentially already begun. All the mass media have sung his praises. One more "Russia's Choice" member, Vorontsov, has nominated Kovalev for the Nobel Prize, which was immediately supported by the famous cohort of Arbatov, Likhachev, and Karyakin....

It was curious to see how Kovalev's visit to Yeltsin developed. In my opinion Kovalev needed this visit by no means to persuade the president of something. The most important matters were the press conference and meetings with Western ambassadors that followed the reception. The state officials generally received by the president are quite niggardly in recounting the content of their talks with him. But Kovalev drew pictures of this meeting with a wealth of detail—the human rights champion obviously has no truck with ethics. But perhaps he has achieved his aim—he has shown the president's unpleasant face and at the same time his "courage." And what language Kovalev has started to use: "The president has surrounded himself with liars and bastards.... You cannot live in a state controlled by bastards...." Bravo, plenipotentiary! The opposition fully agrees with you! But surely you do not consider you had nothing to do with that upper echelon, with all the main decisions of recent years?...

All the above makes it possible to go considerably further in our conclusions than in the article "Snow Falling." The mass media today are not simply not under Yeltsin's control—they are frankly hostile to him. The main loss is television. And Yeltsin's situation is worse than Gorbachev's in 1990-1991. At the time, preparing to replace the latter, television, at the command of the "eminences grises," daily attacked Gorbachev, skilfully packaging its gifts in the most diverse forms. Even State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company leader Kravchenko, who decided to put himself on the line for Gorbachev, was unable to save the situation. Today's head of television, A. Yakovlev, is not Kravchenko and will not put himself out for Yeltsin. Moreover, all today's democratic anti-Yeltsin critics are from Yakovlev's circle and have his mentality. And that makes you think.... The "gunfire" against Yeltsin, partly camouflaged by insults against Grachev and Korzhakov, is proceeding on all television channels. The irony of the situation is that Yeltsin, at the peak of privatization and opening up, by his own decrees bestowed state television property on what now turns out to be his future "burial team." It is the right time to repeal these edicts....

Yeltsin's main syndrome is fear of the return of the past. And the "bloody boys before his eyes" have blocked out another danger—being removed from his associates in the elimination of the "communist idol." And so, while discerning every rustle among the opposition, Yeltsin has failed to notice the "universal man" stealing up on him. And today it is this prepossessing man who has begun to belabor the chief reformer with the cudgel of television. Having first "removed the sentries"—the president's reliable disciples, Poltoranin, Bragin, and Mironov.

Yeltsin now has not days but just hours left to defend himself. And just two legal ways out within the framework of his powers. The first is to open the television channels to statements not even by Communists but by Russian nationalists. Take away from the democratic

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monopolists at least 20 percent of their air time and let Baburin, Vlasov, Nevzorov, Prokhanov, Rutskoy, and Shafarevich have their say—I am citing just a few names in alphabetical order. I believe they will "gnaw away" today's compradors in about three months. And I am sure that Zhirinovskiy's supporters will do the same work in a month and leave no "bones...."

In that sense "Parliamentary Hour," in which the opponents of Gaydar, Fedorov, and Kovalev could speak, is probably more necessary to the president now than to the deputies. And then... the democratic boys are asking for an end to the encroachment on freedom of speech? Very good—implement that freedom but under conditions of equal competition with the Communists and the "Russophiles."

The second way is cadre reshuffles in the leadership of the state television company. It is true that here Yeltsin, in contrast to the first way, will himself have to overcome head-on, as they say, the fierce resistance demonstrated when Poptsov's possible dismissal was reported. Heavy groans from the democratic dinosaur were heard It was entertaining to watch the television pictures produced by the RGTRK [Russian State Television and Radio Company]. Poptsov was shown talking with the future Vatican envoy Kostikov, who "gave away" the information that there was some compromising material against Korzhakov, to which the RGTRK chief stated severely that there was even more on Korzhakov. This looked unequivocal—like the settling of accounts inside a "communal dwelling." But malice obviously caused the television masters from RGTRK to "blow their tops" and they put this masterpiece out all over the country. Then it was reproduced again almost in full in "Itogi" by Ye. Kiselev—one more democratic "authority" and the creator of a television salon of "inside Madrid" ["vnutri-madridskiye," allusion unknown] gossip and innuendo.

Let us note one more essential attribute of the settling of accounts among the democrats. As soon as they want to push away anyone in the ideological sphere the cry immediately goes up: "Hey, president! You have forgotten, ingrate, how we saved you from the red-browns in August and October!"

Enough, gentlemen! It is not you who did the saving but you who were saved! Let us recall that at the same time as Rutskoy, on 3 October 1993 from the "White House" balcony Khasbulatov called for a march on the Kremlin and the arrest of Yeltsin. But the hapless people did not march "on Yeltsin" but on the symbol of television filth. People asked to be allowed to speak and shouted at you: "Come out, you rats!" And it was in your defense that hundreds of people were shot and maimed. And as for 4 October 1993 when parliament was reduced to cinders, then I shall note that the simplest and most brilliant definition of what happened was given in his speech in the Duma by S. Govorukhin: "It was not the mercenary tank drivers who fired on parliament but the mass media!" So that those primarily standing trial for the October bloodshed should not be the servicemen from the "Vityaz" and "Taman" units and not even Yeltsin but your team—the leaders of the television companies and the "observers" with whom everyone is familiar. And as for your cries now, it was not for Yeltsin that you were wailing but for yourselves. For your right to broadcast without letting in not simply those who think differently but even more talented competitors, for the right not to have state wages but uncontrolled market incomes in state service.

In the situation which has taken shape what are we, the representatives of the genuine opposition, to do! We are constantly faced with a heavy burden—choosing from two disgracefully bad options. Is it better or not if Yeltsin is compulsorily, or more likely as a blind, when he has begun to speak the language of a statesman, replaced by a henchman of even more pro-Western orientation? Which is more correct—to take someone's side at least on the Chechnya issue or to "beat" both sides of the "democrats" locked in mortal combat? But perhaps it is better to settle more comfortably in your chair in front of the television and to enjoy watching these cannibals? But it would be a different matter if they were treating each other, since they have set up blood-letting for the entire country.

Further on things will be even more drastic in the democratic serpentarium. Here are the thoughts of one of the recognized leaders of the Russian democrats, Gavriil Popov. In a recent "essay" in IZVESTIYA (24 December 1994) he considers Yeltsin and authoritarianism. An extract with the notable headline "Yeltsin's Prospects" is curious here. Here is what, in Popov's opinion, would most likely await his friend the president: "...In our situation what is most likely being played out is the story of Pavel I, who was strangled by his closest subordinates. In our situation the Afghan version, whereby Taraki was removed by one of his deputies, is also entirely feasible."

Specially for the uninitiated reader surprised at the unusual nature of the passage I have cited, I shall explain that today's methods of employing journalism include using newspaper articles to gain access to a ruling personage. His friends and comrades will slip the article to the president, having marked the above paragraph in highlighter pen. And the president may just take the bait and most likely fire Korzhakov and Barsukov, since it is most convenient for them to perform the roles of Benigsen and Palen. Oh, these essayists are masters at calculated maneuvers....

Unable to suppress the Cassandra in me I shall, like Popov, allow myself to make a prediction in the style of the scaremongers [uzhastiki].

In Moscow today there are two real combat forces. The first is the president's personal bodyguard and the MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] and FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] special subunits. The second consists

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of numerous combat detachments of commercial structures referred to be the fine name of security services. In recent years they have mushroomed. Any "moneybags" could receive authorization to create them. All he needed was to announce loudly or to whisper in the offices of power that he would always be ready to rout the Communists. And that is the result. With the permission of the idiotic authorities who have frightened themselves with the "red-brown threat," the "commercial guard structures" have armed themselves very well and technically (in terms of motor transport or communications, for instance) have long surpassed the MVD and FCS. I am not sure that the MVD has sufficiently reliable information about the total number of these "guards" in the capital. After all, these boys can also be brought into Moscow from other cities. How many of them are there now in Russia? Is it not time to organize a parade for them in Red Square?

One also wonders how they are staffed. On the one hand you often encounter among them ordinary rabble, but on the other there are excellent professionals, former MVD and KGB staffers. And not only privates but also former top officials. Their value is particularly high. First, they are umbilically linked to their colleagues and can with the aid of their bosses' money have an unlimited number of informants. Second, they can plan any operation, including a combat operation, to a high standard. Mr. Popov recalled how Amin overcame Taraki. But is it not more appropriate to recall a later episode from Afghanistan—how in a couple of hours our own "special units" finished off Amin himself in his palace.

I shall fantasize further. Let us compare Amin's palace with the housing complex in Krylatskiy, where the Russian president lives. And instead of the "Alfa" unit let us imagine unlettered boys from the security services of some businessmen who have decided, in addition to economic power, to acquire political power.

And one fine day, on day "X" a twittery young girl announcer, almost in the way it once happened in Spain, suddenly simpers from the screen: "There is a cloudless sky over Russia!" And at this signal several hundreds of these strong boys attack the "house with the mezzanine" on Krylatskiy.

My flight of fancy "in the style of Gavrila" was interrupted when the mail arrived. I opened the New Year issue of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and on the front page there was, of course, a forecast by the chief editor himself. It turns out that Yeltsin, thank God, will not be smothered. "The classic blow with the snuff box" [allusion unknown] awaits him!

Boris Nikolayevich! Get rid of the snuff boxes from your entourage and guards! Let them prepare in advance to smoke the symbolic "Belomorkanal" cigarettes in paper packets....

Dudayev Seen Victorious Media War

LD1101193595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 11 Jan 95

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Jan 11 (Interfax)—Dzhokhar Dudayev has in a sense attained victory in the coverage of the Chechen conflict in the mass media, the chief of the Russian counter-intelligence's press-service Aleksandr Mikhaylov said at a briefing in Moscow on Wednesday.

According to law-enforcement agencies many "tales" about "atrocities" by Russian troops in Chechnya were thought up in Groznyy. There have been unconfirmed rumors in the press about a massacre of injured militants, the destruction of a child-care center and about raped Chechen women. Speakers at the briefing said that in the near future Groznyy would probably try to set Defence Ministry troops and Interior Ministry troops against each other by alleging that Interior Ministry troops shot in the backs of Russian Army servicemen.

Mikhaylov said that the position of Russian soldiers captured by the militants was not as bright as some have been describing it. According to the Federal Counterintelligence Russian troops are tied to tanks and armored vehicles as human shields or placed in the windows likely to be attacked.

As he answered questions, Mikhaylov said that it would make no sense to investigate the circumstances in which army hardware had been left in Chechnya. That was a political action and we are now faced with its consequences", he said.

The counterintelligence official believes that Dudayev's regular armed forces are no more. The federal authorities are confronted with field commanders, whose morale is rather low. He said that militants were now gathering in three of Chechnya's eleven districts.

Mikhaylov said that the Federal Counter-Intelligence had formed a special department for Chechnya. State security bodies in that republic were abolished in 1991 after the declaration of independence. When Groznyy is cleared, the department would move to the Chechen capital to continue to gather information, supply federal troops with intelligence and secure the release of servicemen, taken prisoner by the militants.

Mikhaylov said that two agents of the recently founded special operations department had been injured in Chechnya. He disclosed no details, though.

Poptsov on Current Media Issues

MM1101124795 Moscow TRUD in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Anri Vartanov: "Sword of Damocles Poised Over Freedom of Speech"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The leadership of the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company [RTV] held a news conference for journalists yesterday.

It was devoted to the supposed presidential edict on releasing company leader Oleg Poptsov from his post. When the meeting started there was still no news about the edict having been signed, so the discussion broadened beyond this singular fact and addressed the relationship between the authorities and the mass media.

Oleg Poptsov talked about numerous and extremely varied instances of pressure by the authorities on the work of RTV. About the fact that top representatives of the authorities, lower-ranking officials, representatives of political parties, and members of parliamentary factions alike—everyone considers it possible to express their "wishes" and then takes offense if they are not carried out. And sometimes they get even.

"During the 20 minutes that 'Vesti' is on the air I get an average of five or six calls on the ivory-colored telephones so well-known to television viewers. It is made plain to me that our programs are regularly 'tracked' (a remarkable bolshevik term) and records are kept of how many items in them are 'for' and how many 'against.' Today we are being reproached for not fully giving both viewpoints on the events in Chechnya. This is not quite the case. All these days the official position has been so sparse that we have given it to the last comma, as they say. But the other position, mea culpa, has indeed been given incompletely: Instead of hundreds of dead we have preferred to show only some. We were protecting the nerves of millions of viewers."

The question of the possibility of RTV being taken to court for refusing journalists information from the scenes of fighting in violation of the Law on the Press came up at the news conference. O. Poptsov thought the possibility worthy of attention. His deputy, A. Lysenko, considered it unrealistic: Information from different sources is contradictory because the authorities do not have a precisely formulated policy on the Chechen question.

And there was one other thing on which he disagreed with most of those present. In A. Lysenko's view, the expected edict is not so much an act of repression against an individual as a sword of Damocles deliberately poised over the entire press. So that journalists will fear the authorities and stop themselves going to far.

Government on Death, Injury of Journalists

LD1101205595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2038 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 (TASS)—The press service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Wednesday:

"Work has been finished to put into operation a railway line to the Chervlyonnaya-Uzlovaya station 20 kilometers from Gudermes.

"Yesterday, railway troops disrupted an attempt to destroy a bridge across the River Terek. The nine tanks that had been left on the bridge for this purpose were urgently taken to a dead-end siding, and two platforms with sand were put by an armoured train in front of a kamikaze diesel locomotive going at a speed of 70 kilometers per hour.

"After the locomotive crash and the failed attempt to destroy the railway bridge, a three-hour fighting involving heavy guns ensued.

"During the locomotive-platforms collision a correspondent of the German magazine STERN, Jochen Piest, was killed and a ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA photographer, Vladimir Sorokin, wounded."

Yeltsin Reaffirms Press Freedom to Journalists

LD1201095895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Boris Yeltsin today congratulated Russian journalists and all those working in the mass media on Russian press day, which is marked on 13 January. The Russian press exerts a great influence on the progress of reform in the country. Normal life in the country and the preservation of civil peace depend to a significant degree on the professionalism, objectivity, and responsibility of its journalists, it says in the text of the greeting distributed by the head of state's press office today. He stated that he will continue to assist in restoring favorable political and economic conditions for the principles of freedom of speech and of the press to be implemented.

Duma Deputy on Media Coverage of Chechnya

LD1101143395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The coverage of the Chechen conflict by the Russian mass media has put them in opposition to the state structures, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Anatoliy Dolgolaptev said.

Speaking at an emergency session of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, on Wednesday [11 January], Dolgolaptev said that the mass media have created an "image of the army as a collective monster."

Dolgolaptev, a member of the special commission monitoring constitutional rights and freedoms in Chechnya, admitted that "flagrant facts of human rights violations indeed take place" in the zone of the conflict, "but in the conditions, in which the army has been put, it acts appropriately." He stressed that all sides are violating human rights in Chechnya.

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The Chechen crisis is yet another link in the chain of efforts to "destroy Russian statehood, which we have been doing in the last ten years," Dolgolaptev added. He said that in the beginning it was a confrontation between the white and the red, then between the democrats and the communists and now, in Chechnya, between hawks and doves.

Dolgolaptev urged somber-minded politicians representing all branches of power, who "understand the essence of what is going on and are ready to cooperate," to work out the necessary decisions, including in the legislative sphere, which will help rescue the country out of the crisis. "Otherwise, we will finish the country," he said.

Ground Troops Commander Urges 'Higher Status'

LD1201142495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1401 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 12 (INTERFAX)—Commander of the ground troops Colonel-General Vladimir Semyonov favors dividing responsibilities between the Defense Ministry and the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. In an interview with Interfax Thursday he said that the status of the General Staff should be "much higher than its current position".

According to Semyonov, the General Staff should coordinate the activities of all "power" ministries in terms of "the country's preparations for defense". "Its main task is the country's combat readiness for a possible war," said the general.

The commander believes that the chief of the General Staff should be directly subordinate to the supreme commander, the Russian president, and be a member of the Security Council. He is sure that the General Staff should control the armed forces.

Semyonov believes that the Defense Ministry should deal with problems of military politics, "push" the government to allocate more money for defense purposes, purchase military technology and armaments. The general also believes that the Defense Ministry should initiate in parliament the adoption of laws which would make it possible to conduct successfully military reform, "in other words, to create a basis for the normal functioning of the armed forces".

The commander believes that the reform of the armed forces should be conducted by parliament and government and be headed by the president.

General Staff Chief on Proposed new Role

LD1101232995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted: announcer cites State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin as saying that perhaps it is worthwhile to revive the pre—1917 Russian tradition of Russia's General Staff coordinating the actions of the country's armed forces] I rang chief of the General Staff, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov. He believes this idea is fundamentally promising. Kolesnikov stressed, however, that he shall oppose it categorically inasmuch as such changes will bring disorder into the structures of the Defense Ministry and will throw the situation completely out of control. He says we need to reform the military structures like other civilized countries. In saying this, he cited as an example Italy, Finland, Germany, and Japan, however strange this may sound in this context of tsarist Russia.

Under this model, the functions of the Defense Ministry, which will possibly be headed by a civilian minister, will include military-political questions, military-economic matters, in particular the budget, as well as ties with parliament. The command of the troops and matters concerning their operational use will be transferred to the general staff whose chief will be directly subordinate to the supreme commander.

Official Denies General Staff, Military Reforms

LD1201092895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov denied media reports that President Boris Yeltsin had decided to take the General Staff of the Russian armed forces from the Defence Ministry and subordinate it directly to himself, but admitted that such an option was discussed at Wednesday meeting between the president, the prime minister and both speakers of the Russian parliament.

"The issue about General Staff was raised only as a part of the general exchange of views in connection with the instruction of the president issued several months ago to the prime minister and the Security Council regarding the drafting of the major guidelines of the military reform in Russia", Kostikov said in a statement received by TASS on Thursday.

"No concrete decisions on military reform, including on the General Staff, were discussed or adopted during the meeting", Kostikov said.

Council Approves Draft 'Superethnic' Concept

LD1101195195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 11 (Interfax)—The expert and consulting council headed by Presidential Chief Executive Sergey Filatov approved a draft concept for Russia's national revival and interethnic cooperation of its peoples, the presidential staff told Interfax Wednesday.

The concept was developed by experts of the public movement "Peoples' Cooperation for Peace" (Seneżhsky Forum—IF note) directed by Federation Council

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Deputy Speaker Ramazan Abdulatipov. The movement embraces prominent figures of science, culture and business.

For the first time ever, the draft concept defined Russia as a superethnic Eurasian civilization. In addition, the document proclaims equal rights of all peoples of Russia and their right to independent development backed by the state. A special section is devoted to state patronage of the development of small or vanishing peoples. Six other sections cover social, economic, psychological and spiritual aspects of the peoples' revival as well as issues related to the reproduction and migration of the population.

According to a council member, Leonid Smirnyagin, the draft concept represents the first attempt over the last years to consider ethnic issues as a complex. "The concept is addressed to all the peoples of Russia rather than individual nations," he emphasized.

New Federal Border Service Welcomed

MM1201142395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 95 First Edition p 4

["Commentary" by Leonid Kravchenko under the general heading: "Solid Borders—Strong State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On reading the president's edict, the following question naturally arises: What will change now in the activities of the Border Guard Troops, and will the matter not amount just to a change of name and to a cadre reshuffle in the Federal Border Service? No, principled decisions had to be adopted at presidential level primarily in connection with the need to widen the powers and enhance the status of the Border Guard Troops themselves and of their command.

Let us recall that in the past the Border Guard Troops were included, as a rule, in the structure of the KGB or the Ministry of Security, and the commander in chief of these troops had, at best, the rights of a first deputy minister. Incidentally, in August 1993 Andrey Ivanovich Nikolayev, the present commander in chief, was actually appointed a Russian Federation deputy minister of security. Henceforth the commander in chief is director of the Federal Border Service and can be appointed only by the Russian Federation president.

The powers of the Federal Border Service itself will also be enhanced. There are very serious grounds for this. A new geopolitical situation developed following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Our land borders proved to be "transparent" along almost their entire length. And yet in the past demarcation fences had been constructed on several lines, covering 60 percent of the land border. Now the Russian Border Guard Troops are continuing to guard the external borders of a number of former USSR republics on those same lines. There is no other, more advantageous alternative. It would take colossal expenditure and a long time to provide border facilities on the new lines. Why do this if the majority of the former union republics—now independent states—readily agree to cooperation and to joint guarding of their external borders? Many various and mutually advantageous framework treaties and agreements have been concluded in this regard, and a strong boost has been given to the integration of the CIS countries' border guard troops, including the creation of a single command. The atmosphere of trust is being strengthened. Russian border guards are received very well in Commonwealth countries.

Commander in Chief A.I. Nikolayev actively conducts all talks on behalf of Russia's top leadership. Therefore it is perfectly logical that his powers are being widened. But there is also a second important point here. The modern border is a place to ensure the state's security, where interests come together and the efforts of the security, intelligence, and counterintelligence services, the ministries of defense, foreign affairs, trade, nature protection, and fishing, the Customs Committee, sanitary supervision, and many others are pooled. Consequently, what is needed is an umbrella organization, a coordinator of all efforts with the authorities of the highest federal power. Now, in accordance with the president's edict, the Federal Border Service will become just this.

The expediency of such a reorganization is confirmed in the example of the "Fishing-94" operation conducted last year. At the time a resolute rebuff was dealt to foreign poachers who were brazenly throwing their weight around in our Far Eastern waters. The operation's success was ensured by close cooperation with marines, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Russian Federation Committee for Fishing, and the State Customs Committee. All means were used, including reconnaissance from space. Thanks to this operation, fish resources worth 2.3 trillion rubles were saved. The Federal Border Service was the operation's chief coordinator.

Ultimately, that experiment and also the "Barrier" and "Border" operations and others, which were conducted later, were weighty arguments in favor of the creation of Russia's Federal Border Service.

Officials To View 14th Army, Not Remove Lebed

MM1101163495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 2

[Report on telephone interview with Russian Deputy Defense Minister Army General Konstantin Kobets by Viktor Litovkin; date not given: "General Kobets Will Fly to Tiraspol When the Weather Settles Down, But He Does Not Intend To Remove Lebed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We decided to clarify the reports in the Kishinev [Chisinau] and Moscow press, and also on radio and television, to the effect that Army General Konstantin Kobets is flying to Tiraspol "to remove Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed," by calling the Russian deputy defense minister himself.

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"I was surprised to hear this rumor," Konstantin Ivanovich said, "that I had been instructed to remove the commander of the 14th Army from his post. As deputy minister, I have no such powers. It is the prerogative of the president, and him alone, to decide such matters. And indeed, according to my information, nobody has been asked to do this."

At the same time the general did not deny that he intends to fly to Tiraspol for a tour of inspection. "This is a planned trip," he said, "scheduled by the Russian Main Military Inspectorate as long ago as 2 December last year for the second or third week of January this year, and Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed is well aware of that." The inspectors' job includes: examining how plans for combat training are being fulfilled in 14th Army units and how it is organized; it is also proposed to analyze the progress of organizational measures to reform it, and to study experience in the training of small subunits, which is assessed highly by the Armed Forces leadership.

"We were unable to fly to Tiraspol 11 January," the general told me, "because the runway at the local military airfield was iced up, and we simply can't afford to pay $1,200 a time for takeoff and landing at Kishinev, plus additional dollars for parking our plane." Our group of inspectors will certainly fly down to the Army in the next few days, Konstantin Kobets added, as soon as the weather settles down; and incidentally, we have spoken about this with Aleksandr Ivanovich by telephone, and he has no objection.

As for the cancellation of the trip to Tiraspol by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian Ground Forces, according to Kobets there was an organizational hitch. The two trips by two Moscow army chiefs were set for the same time. "We consulted with the commander in chief," the chief military inspector said, "and we decided that I would go. As deputy minister and in terms of my job I am Semenov's boss anyway, so it is more convenient to assess the work of both the Army and the main command in charge of it."

Agrarians Discuss Current Issues

MM0601112795 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Baklanov under the "Party Life" rubric: "What Awaits the Peasantry?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the days before the New Year a group of Agrarian deputies of the State Duma headed by Mikhail Ivanovich Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, held a number of meetings with leaders of Lipetsk Oblast agricultural collectives. [passage omitted]

People asked very many questions about the political situation in Russia, about whether the next elections will take place, and about the Agrarian faction's attitude to the events in Chechnya.

"We believe that the situation can be changed radically for the better only by replacing the existing regime," M.I. Lapshin declared. "If the peasantry is not reborn, Russia will not be reborn either. It is necessary to form a powerful bloc of opposition forces in time for the next parliamentary and presidential elections. We are ready to consolidate with other parties and movements if our aims and tasks coincide. But we will go into the parliamentary elections on our own. Some people are pushing the people into an early presidential election. Our party firmly advocates a democratic path of development and unswerving compliance with the Constitution. We believe that the presidential election must be held at the time defined by law.[passage omitted]

Peasants declared in the meetings that, despite all the difficulties, it is necessary to work in hope of something better. In order, in the next elections to organs of legislative and executive power at all levels—from village to the Kremlin—to elect worthy representatives who would be capable of leading the country out of crisis and who would work not for themselves but for the good of the fatherland.

Agrarians Bemoan Agricultural 'Collapse'

MM1101164595 Moscow TRUD in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "That's News!" rubric: "Agrarians Sound the Alarm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current situation in the countryside can be rectified only through the adoption of emergency measures by the Russian president and government, otherwise the country will lose its food security for many years. This is what is said in a statement which was released at a news conference in the Russian Federation State Duma by Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the chamber's agrarian faction, and which had been prepared by this deputies' association.

The document notes that the current collapse of agricultural production "was not experienced by the agrarian sector even in the worst times of the war." The reduction in the production of output by agricultural enterprises in all forms of ownership totals 45-50 percent of the average yearly production in 1986-1990. The number of cattle has decreased 24 percent as against the 1990 level, the figures for hogs being 36 percent, and for sheep and goats being 40 percent.

At the same time, the statement says, more and more food products are being imported from abroad. During 1994 meat imports increased 400-800 percent, butter imports increased 300 percent, tea imports increased 80 percent, potato imports increased 150 percent, and apple imports increased 500 percent.

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Military & Nuclear Issues

Yeltsin Establishes Arms Industry Oversight Body

MM1101125395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 95 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2251 "On the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy," dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 30 December 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, followed by "Statute on the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the purposes of ensuring compliance with state interests in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries and interdepartmental coordination in implementing state arms programs and state programs for the conversion of production facilities and the salvaging of arms and military hardware, I decree that:

1. A Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy (hereafter known as the Committee) is to be formed.

2. In a partial amendment to Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 66 of 10 January 1994 "On the Structure of Federal Organs of Executive Power," it is laid down that the Committee is a federal organ of executive power subordinate to the Russian Federation president with regard to questions allocated to it by the Russian Federation Constitution or by Russian Federation legislative acts.

It is laid down that the Committee's main tasks are:

to formulate and implement state policy in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries;

to coordinate the implementation of arms programs and programs for the conversion of military-industrial complex production facilities and the salvaging of arms and military hardware.

3. Sergey Ivanovich Svechnikov is appointed chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy.

Within one week the Committee chairman is to submit a candidacy for appointment to the post of first deputy chairman of the Committee.

4. It is laid down that the Committee chairman independently decides the Committee's structure and is directly accountable to the Russian Federation president.

O.N. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, is to supervise the Committee's activity.

5. It is laid down that the Committee's decisions adopted within the bounds of its competence are binding on all participants in foreign economic activity in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries.

6. The appended Statute on the Committee is approved.

7. The Committee is permitted to co-opt up to 95 members of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, the Russian Federation president's Security Service, the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, and the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service.

8. The Committee's total membership is fixed at 243 persons.

9. The Interdepartmental Commission for the Russian Federation's Military-Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries is to be abolished and its functions transferred to an Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Military-Technical Policy under the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy.

10. The Russian Federation Government is to:

define the Committee as a state client for export and import deliveries of output and commodities for state needs in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries;

within one week transfer the Main Engineering-Technical Administration of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations to the Committee's jurisdiction;

ensure the allocation to the Committee, according to the established procedure, of the necessary official premises in the building at this address: Floors six and seven, Block 18/1 (building No. 5), Ovchinnikovskaya Naberezhnaya, Moscow;

within two weeks approve the composition of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Military-Technical Policy under the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy and a statute for it;

bring its normative acts into line with the present edict.

11. The Russian Federation's federal organs of executive power are to give the Committee help and assistance in resolving questions relating to its competence and provide the Committee with the necessary information materials relating to its sphere of activity.

12. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to inform the leadership of Russian missions in foreign states of the contents of the present edict and convey the appropriate information in the relevant section to those countries' officials.

13. The Russian Federation Ministry of Communications and the Federal Government Communications and

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Information Agency under the Russian Federation president are to provide the Committee with the necessary means of communication, including government communications and communications through international channels, and also with information resources for the implementation of its activity.

14. The Committee's activity is to be funded out of the federal budget.

15. The Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration is to submit proposals for amending Russian Federation presidential decisions in connection with the present edict's entry into force.

16. This edict comes into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 30 December 1994.

Statute on the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy

I. General Provisions

1. The Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy (hereafter the Committee) is a federal organ of executive power designed to formulate and implement state policy in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries, the coordination of the implementation of arms programs and programs for the conversion of production facilities of the military-industrial complex and the salvaging of arms and military hardware, and also interdepartmental coordination in the said questions.

2. The Committee is guided in its activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, federal laws, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, decrees and directives of the Russian Federation Government, and also this Statute.

3. The Committee is accountable to the Russian Federation president.

4. The Committee carries out its activity in cooperation with other federal organs of executive power.

II. Main Tasks

5. The Committee's main tasks are:

to draw up draft legislative acts relating to state policy in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries and in the military-industrial sphere relating to questions within the Committee's competence;

to formulate and implement state policy in the sphere of the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries;

to coordinate the activities of federal organs of executive power relating to the implementation of arms programs and programs for the conversion of enterprises of the defense complex and the reduction and salvaging of arms and military hardware;

to regulate relations in the sphere of military-technical cooperation;

to ensure coordinated action by participants in military-technical cooperation;

to monitor the implementation of the foreign economic activity of subjects of military-technical cooperation.

III. Main Functions and Rights

6. In accordance with the tasks entrusted to it, the Committee fulfills the following main functions:

elaborates draft normative acts, generalizes the practice of applying legislation to questions within the Committee's competence, submits proposals for improving the legislation of the Russian Federation;

participates in the elaboration of federal programs in the military-industrial sphere relating to questions within the Committee's competence;

coordinates the activities of federal organs of executive power and state organizations in fulfilling arms programs and programs for exports of arms and military hardware, the conversion of defense complex science and production facilities, and the reduction and salvaging of arms;

participates in the elaboration of federal programs of military-technical cooperation;

participates in the elaboration of conceptual approaches to military-technical cooperation problems;

organizes work in setting up bilateral and multilateral state commissions for military-technical cooperation;

prepares draft intergovernmental treaties on military-technical cooperation and organizes intergovernmental talks;

submits proposals for establishing military-technical cooperation with states with which it was not previously carried on;

draws up recommendations for suspending, terminating, or resuming military-technical cooperation with particular foreign states;

participates in the formulation of proposals relating to deliveries of arms and military hardware which were not previously delivered abroad and also to the transfer to foreign states of licenses for their production;

prepares draft programs of cooperation with foreign states in the sphere of developing and producing arms and military hardware;

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participates in the work of state commissions and international organizations for questions of military-technical cooperation;

issues licenses in the sphere of military-technical cooperation;

draws up long-term draft state defense orders in the sphere of deliveries for export of arms and military hardware;

shapes and organizes the implementation of the state export defense order;

participates in the process of settling the Russian Federation's foreign debts and the debts of foreign states to the Russian Federation;

analyzes existing long-term state agreements providing for the delivery for export of arms and military hardware with due regard for mutual debts and the possibilities of commodity exchange and other forms of transaction, and elaborates proposals for realizing intergovernmental agreements with foreign states;

monitors the fulfillment by Russian participants in military-technical cooperation of commitments assumed by the Russian Federation under intergovernmental treaty documents on military-technical cooperation;

coordinates decisions on the mechanism and procedure for passing budget appropriations allocated to fund the state export defense order, and monitors the effectiveness of their utilization;

makes an economic analysis of the results of military-technical cooperation, and monitors the receipt and utilization of currency funds from export operations;

controls the granting, obtaining, and repaying of special state credits to importing countries;

coordinates the process of planning research and development to maintain and develop the defense industry's export potential with a view to creating the latest export models of weapons and modernizing the arms and military hardware previously supplied abroad;

generalizes and analyzes the results of foreign economic activity by subjects of military-technical cooperation;

coordinates marketing, tendering, and advertising activity, including the participation of Russian subjects of military-technical cooperation with foreign countries in international arms and military hardware exhibitions;

with the participation of other participants in military-technical cooperation, prepares reference, report, and other documents relating to questions of military-technical cooperation;

analyzes the potential requirements of foreign countries for arms and military hardware and the defense industry's potential for meeting the demand in the arms market;

participates in the elaboration of recommendations for shaping a technological transfer strategy and programs for the development of dual technologies in the interests of enhancing the military industry's export potential with due regard for progress in converting the Russian Federation's defense complex;

assesses the potential for expanding exports of arms and military hardware to CIS member states and for military-technical cooperation with these states in the sphere of research and development and the production of military export output;

analyzes concepts and organizes practical steps to form financial-industrial groups in the Russian Federation's defense complex, and draws up recommendations for the participation in them of specialized export-import companies;

organizes research into questions of competition in the world arms market, and draws up recommendations for promoting specialized Russian-made products on these markets;

draws up and submits in accordance with the prescribed procedure proposals relating to questions of ensuring economic security in the sphere of military-technical cooperation;

monitors the formation and the level of the cost parameters of the main kinds of exported and imported arms and military hardware;

coordinates the work of checking the reliability of foreign partners in the sphere of military-technical cooperation;

organizes the work of checking (auditing) the foreign economic activity of Russian participants in military-technical cooperation, their missions abroad, and the apparatuses of trade missions in the sphere of questions of military-technical cooperation;

organizes the work of creating information systems and data bases in the interests of ensuring the Committee's efficient functioning;

fulfills other functions in the sphere of military-technical cooperation provided for in the Russian Federation's existing legislation.

7. To carry out its tasks and functions, the Committee has the right:

to cooperate, within the bounds of its competence, with establishments, organizations, officials, and individual citizens of foreign states both inside and outside the Russian Federation;

to suspend licenses to carry on military-technical cooperation in the event of a violation of the established procedure for carrying on military-technical cooperation by participants in foreign economic activity;

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to receive foreign delegations coming to Russia through the Committee and to send delegations abroad on questions of military-technical cooperation. To participate in talks held by subjects of military-technical cooperation with foreign partners;

to exercise control over the work of subjects of military-technical cooperation in sending delegations abroad on questions of military-technical cooperation;

to conclude agreements with companies specializing in the sphere of military-technical cooperation with foreign states and to determine the terms of their activity connected with ensuring the Russian Federation's state interests;

to exercise control over the targeted and efficient use of budget appropriations allocated for purposes of military-technical cooperation and the realization of arms programs and programs for reducing, salvaging, and destroying arms and munitions and for converting and reducing science and production facilities in the defense complex;

to issue, within the framework of its competence, acts that are binding on Russian subjects of military-technical cooperation and to monitor their implementation;

to send its representatives to Russian Federation establishments abroad by agreement with the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations;

to request and obtain from Russian Federation ministries and departments, specialized companies, and enterprises and organizations of the defense complex information that is needed to fulfill the tasks entrusted to the Committee;

to recruit experts and advisers according to the prescribed procedure, to conclude contracts with enterprises, organizations, and citizens for work to be carried out in areas within the Committee's competence.

IV. Structure

8. The Committee is headed by the Committee chairman, who is appointed to and relieved of the post by the president of the Russian Federation following representation from the chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

9. The Committee chairman has a first deputy, who is appointed to and relieved of the post by the president of the Russian Federation following representation from the Committee chairman.

10. Committee deputy chairmen are appointed to and relieved of their posts by the Russian Federation Government following representation from the Committee chairman.

11. The Committee chairman directs the Committee's activity, bears personal responsibility for the fulfillment of the tasks entrusted to the Committee, approves the Committee's structure and staff within the bounds of the prescribed strength and also the estimated cost of maintaining the Committee within the bounds of the budget appropriations allocated, distributes responsibilities among the chairman's deputies, appoints and dismisses Committee staff, issues orders and directives, and provides instructions on questions within his competence which have to be carried out by Committee staff and, in cases laid down by legislation, by participants in and subjects of military-technical cooperation.

12. The size of the Committee is determined by the president of the Russian Federation.

13. An Interdepartmental Coordinating Council for Military-Technical Policy is formed under the Committee. The Statute on the Council and its composition are to be approved by the Russian Federation Government.

14. A collegium is formed in the Committee consisting of the Committee chairman (collegium chairman), his deputies, leading employees of the Committee, and leaders of managing subjects of military-technical cooperation. Members of the Committee collegium are approved by the Russian Federation Government.

15. The Committee's activity is funded out of federal budget funds.

Organizational-technical support for the Committee's activity and social-domestic, transport, medical, and sanatorium-resort services for its staff are provided by the Russian Federation president's Administration of Affairs according to the established procedure.

16. The Committee is a legal person and has a seal depicting the State Emblem of the Russian Federation and its own name and a current account and other accounts at banking establishments.

BSF Ranks Second in Weapons Exercise

MM1101124995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin: "Black Sea Fleet: All Shells on Target"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on the year's results, the Black Sea Fleet came second out of Russia's four fleets, winning five challenge prizes.

Rear Admiral Nikolay Mikhalchenko, deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet for combat training, said that the Black Sea Fleet accounts for 40 percent of the entire Navy's weapons training. Coastal troops conducted nine battalion tactical exercises, five of them involving live fire. For the first time there was antiaircraft fire by a shipborne strike force in collaboration with fighter aviation directed at five targets (all were downed).

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Spaceship Successfully Undocks From Mir

LD1101145195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The undocking between the Soyuz TM-20 spaceship with Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova and Valeriy Polyakov aboard and the Mir space station, which was done on Wednesday [11 January] at 11:57, Moscow time, was completed successfully.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the Videokosmos joint stock society that the aim of the undocking was to check independent operation of the "Kurs" docking system. The spaceship travelled independently from the station for 30 minutes and then docked to the Mir again.

The need for the checkup was prompted by the deplorable experience cosmonauts had last October when automatic docking failed, and crew commander Viktorenko had to dock the spaceship to the station manually.

The flight control centre reported that the cosmonauts moved to the spaceship before the undocking and closed the transfer hatches. The Soyuz TM-20 disengaged from the orbital complex at 12:00, Moscow time, and departed from it to a distance of 160 meters.

Further operations, including mooring and docking of the ship to the station, were made automatically. The time of the spaceship's independent flight amounted to 26 minutes.

The Russian cosmonauts continue planned explorations and experiments aboard the Mir space station.

Since today's automatic docking passed smoothly, the cosmonauts described the last setback as a casual technical malfunction. However, they plan to examine it in detail again.

Nuclear Accident Data Base Seen Uncomplete

MM1101152195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Article by Sergey Pluzhnikov and Sergey Sokolov: "Unrecorded Cases of People Exposed to Radiation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Death in Post Boxes

The Russian data base has no equivalent in the world in terms of the number of victims of radiation it contains. It covers almost 150 radiation accidents and incidents of various kinds which have occurred since the early fifties (including Chernobyl); 904 cases are recorded from which 429 victims suffering from various kinds of acute radiation sickness (around 60 with fatal outcomes) have been identified. The American plutonium registers for the same peacetime period carry the names of 374 workers of the Savannah River nuclear production facility (of our Mayak type) and dozens of specialists of other nuclear centers who have somehow come into contact with radiation. One of the biggest European registers (Germany) contains 372 cases of exposure to radiation.

It is also important to stress that the Russian list is far from complete and contains a vast number of question marks, gaps, and entries of the kind "date and circumstances of accident impossible to establish in principle." Will we ever learn, for example, the whole story of those "unrecorded cases of exposure to radiation" which occurred during nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific (267 people)? Or find out exactly what happened and how many people died during accidents at our numerous "post boxes" [reference to secret plants not featured on maps and known only by name of nearby city followed by special numerical designation] and secret strategic facilities?

Federal Assembly

Duma Committee Chief Shapovalov Cited on Chechnya

MM1101162995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jan 95 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Sergey Shapovalov, chairman of the Russian State Duma committee for Federation Affairs and Regional Policy, by Yevgeniy Skukin; place and date of interview not given, under general heading: "Bringing Back Legality"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent has interviewed Sergey Shapovalov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Federation Affairs and Regional Policy.

[Skukin] Sergey Aleksandrovich, what ways do you see for resolving the Chechen conflict?

[Shapovalov] In the committee we have examined this problem repeatedly. Our colleagues have discussed it in their factions. I see the following way out of the existing situation. I am in favor of Russian troops not leaving Chechnya's territory in any circumstances. Or else no one will give a guarantee that in the future the restoration of the constitutional system will not be carried out with even greater bloodshed.

[Skukin] Who will engage in work to restore the organs of power and destroyed economy of the Chechen Republic?

[Shapovalov] This tremendous work will be assigned to the federal ministries and departments. It is no accident that a proposal from the Party of Russian Unity and Accord faction, to which I belong, was submitted to the Duma session to the effect that a separate legislative act should be prepared at the level of the federal law on the legal settlement of the situation in the Chechen Republic.

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[Skukin] Sergey Aleksandrovich, as we know, the "Russia's Choice" faction is also coming out with a legislative initiative. How do you assess it?

[Shapovalov] Their legislative initiative is connected with the alteration of the text of the Constitution in two respects. It is a case, first, of creating parliamentary commissions invested with extraordinary powers to investigate various events. And the second amendment is connected with adding to the relevant articles of the Constitution the right of control functions over the executive branch for both chambers. I have a negative attitude toward these amendments to the Constitution.

Duma Discusses Chechen Crisis in Emergency Session

LD1101181495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The State Duma held an emergency session on Wednesday to discuss the Chechen crisis.

The discussion involved the leaders of practically all Duma factions and deputies, including those who had recently visited Chechnya.

All speakers agreed that hostilities in Chechnya should be halted and called for a negotiated settlement of the crisis. Deputies voted to set up a special parliamentary commission to investigate into the causes of the tragedy.

At the same time, members of the Liberal Democratic Party faction and the "Russian Path" group denounced the "Russia's Choice" faction's move with regard to the Army as a "stab in the back" of the soldiers who are defending the territorial integrity of Russia and carrying out their constitutional duty.

Deputies were unanimous that the Chechen conflict is an inner Chechen conflict, not a conflict between the Russian Federation and one of its members. They pointed out that the Russian soldiers in Chechnya are defending the lives and constitutional rights of all Russians.

Deputies stressed the need to prevent the internationalisation of the conflict and called on President Boris Yeltsin to speed up the resolution of the Chechen conflict in order to minimise the loss of life there.

The discussion will resume on January 13.

'Not Very Productive' Session Viewed

MM1201092995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Lyubov Tsukanova: "Few Deputies Today Can Speak on Behalf of Their Voters. This Was Demonstrated by Yesterday's Extraordinary State Duma Session Discussing the Situation in Chechnya and Measures To Solve the Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The draft federal laws "On Banning Russian Armed Forces' Combat Operations on Russian Federation Territory," "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Defense,'" "On the Procedure for Publishing Lists of Servicemen Killed, Missing, and Injured in Military Service," and "On Amendments and Additions to the Federal Law 'On Funding State Expenditure from the Federal Budget in the First Quarter of 1995'" were on the agenda. The draft laws were elaborated by the State Duma's democratic factions and were included on the agenda mainly thanks to the support of the "New Regional Policy" faction. But "Russia's Choice" did not succeed in including on the agenda the question of giving the parliament supervisory functions. As expected, the opportunistic nature of this proposal from the democrats ran up against opportunistic support for the executive in the Chechen conflict from an overwhelming majority in the Duma, which is usually opposed to the president and the government.

The statements by State Duma deputies who had witnessed events in Chechnya, with which the substantive part of yesterday's discussion began, confirmed that the Chechen crisis has reinforced the political split within the representative power. Few deputies (State Duma deputies at any rate) today can speak on behalf of the legislature as a whole. Nor can they even speak on behalf of that section of the population which elected them personally or voted for their party in the elections because the Chechen conflict or, to be more precise, the means of resolving it have indeed split society as a whole. In that regard, yesterday's Duma debate was obviously not very productive. It was owing to the political polarization of our legislative body that the appeals by a few speakers to rise above the specific situation and move onto cooperation between the branches of power in order to preserve Russian statehood will hardly be heeded. Today, regrettably, neither is the executive demonstrating interest in such cooperation nor is the legislature demonstrating the will and unity in its choice of ways to collaborate.

Yushenkov Backs Generals Who Opposed Chechen Operation

LD1101214695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—State Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov supported the Russian generals who opposed the use of the regular army in resolving the crisis in Chechnya.

Speaking at an extraordinary Duma session Wednesday he described the position of Deputy Defense Ministers Boris Gromov and Georgiy Kondratyev and General Aleksandr Lebed who, he said, did not want to fight their own people as meeting high moral standards.

This angered Liberal Democratic leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who shouted at Yushenkov calling him a scoundrel.

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Following an exchange of abuse, Yushenkov continued his speech and demanded an end to the improper use of the army.

He called on the deputies to support the amendments in the Russian Defense Act banning the use of armed forces in conflicts on Russian soil.

Rybkin Briefs Legislators on Meeting With Yeltsin

LD1101205795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2044 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Russian State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin briefed lawmakers from the lower chamber on results of his Wednesday's meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Legislators gathered on Wednesday to discuss the situation in Chechnya.

Rybkin said that a moratorium on military operations is being almost unilaterally observed by federal troops. However, a schedule for handing over facilities now under federal control to local militia has been drafted. Regiments are settling themselves to stay in winter quarters on the Chechen territory.

The president and the speaker agreed, according to Rybkin, that the military reform dragged out and must be speeded up. A possible management solution could be to form a general headquarters to handle all the army-related problems, as was in Russia before 1917.

Rybkin said, in Yeltsin's opinion, the State Duma did not perform its key supervisory functions, that is control over budget and finances. The president also said he would immediately sign a decree to create a relevant body.

The president thinks the Duma has failed to perform its duty to ensure the observance of human rights on the Russian territory in full. Therefore, one of its priority tasks is to pass a law on the human rights commissioner in Russia.

Rybkin proposed to continue discussions in the State Duma on January 13.

Regional Affairs

Russian Control of Groznyy Security Building Denied

LD0901173895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to official sources, the Federal forces today seized the first few floors of the State Security Department building in Groznyy. However, our correspondent who is in the Chechen capital refutes this information.

Committee of Mothers Demands Servicemen Return

WS1101141095 Kaliningrad SVOBODNAYA ZONA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Soldiers' Mothers Against the Chechen War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A collection of signatures under a demand to stop combat activities in Chechnya and send sons back to the sites of their permanent deployment was organized at the Pobeda Square on Sunday [8 January] by the Oblast Committee of Soldiers' Mothers. It was announced at the meeting that around 300 servicemen of the 11th Guard Army had been sent so far to Groznyy. The mothers, vexed by their sons' fate, adopted an appeal to the Russian president, which urges a peaceful resolution of the Chechen problem and an immediate return of the servicemen on active duty to their home bases. The Committee of Soldiers' Mothers upheld a previous resolution by the Oblast Duma, which denounces forcible methods for restoring constitutional order in the Chechen Republic.

The meeting was promptly used by those willing to make a political profit out of that tragedy: Some, assuming the role of people's defenders, used it for ensuring their place in future elections and governments, others—like a certain Burlakov, Communist—for appeals to turn arms against the Kremlin to overthrow the president and the government. To the credit of participants in the meeting, it should be noted that they called him a provocateur and drove him away from the rostrum.

Urals OMON Forces Desert Chechnya Post, Go Home

MM0901161995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Chelnokov: "Yekaterinburg OMON Mutiny"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On New Year's Eve the bulk of the Yekaterinburg OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment], which had been sent to Chechnya, left their base, IMA-PRESS was told by Valeriy Inozemtsev, chairman of the independent trade union of internal affairs department staffers of the Yekaterinburg Oblast internal affairs directorate. Your IZVESTIYA correspondent managed to contact one of the OMON personnel, a militia major who has returned to Yekaterinburg (his name is not being published at his request). His story is cited below and in our view needs no comment.

Some 101 Yekaterinburg OMON personnel, in response to a combat alert, were transferred to Rostov-na-Donu 2 December. They were housed at a "Don" Internal Troops Division training regiment.

"The barracks were not heated," the officer said, "I only went to the canteen once: A cesspit smells better. Poor soldiers...."

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Over the next two days—3 and 4 December—Chelyabinsk,, Nizhniy Novgorod, Saratov, Samara, and Moscow OMON units arrived at the regiment's base. They changed into ordinary militia uniform without OMON insignia and all 900 men were dispatched to Beslan (North Ossetia). Major General Vorobyev, who died recently in Groznyy, was in command of the grouping.

The Beslan grouping went to Chechnya from Vladikavkaz. The OMON formed the second echelon: The Tula Airborne Division went ahead. They advanced slowly: Dudayev's men were fighting to the last ditch. The "Don" Division's 46th Regiment, to which the OMON had been assigned, was 2-3 km away from the front line 8 December.

The men were serving on the watch method, spending two days in the trenches, in the open field, and two days resting. Their mission being to "safeguard public order." The losses incurred were relatively small. Two members of the Yekaterinburg OMON were injured; a Saratov detachment staffer opened fire in a tent wounding three of his colleagues and then committed suicide.

The OMON were "providing cover" for 19 posts.

"The airborne division soldiers," the officer said, "were boys who were totally unprepared for combat operations. So, we would stand there and keep an eye on them."

Before his very eyes, on the orders of the commander of a battalion of the "Don" Airborne Division's 47th Regiment, recoilless guns were fired at an oil storage facility.

The OMON's tour of duty ended 2 January. However shortly before New Year it was extended to 26 January on the orders of Colonel Zyurikov, deputy chief of a Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] directorate.

"We asked 'What is our mission?'" the major said. "'To safeguard public order,' we were told. 'What do you mean safeguard? There is a war on involving tanks and artillery whereas we have small arms and "Cheremukha" [crowd-control] gas.'"

The OMON asked their Moscow bosses for written orders to use weapons and also to define their status—that they issue the cards needed for carrying weapons as envisaged by the law on the state of emergency.

"We got neither," the OMON officer said. "We were not even given a map of the locality. Our bosses simply wanted to hush up this war—hence all the confusion."

The officer estimates that the number of fatalities on the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and MVD side stands at several thousand.

Aware that the high command was leaving them "exposed," Yekaterinburg OMON personnel almost in their entirety (with the exception of the injured) returned to the Urals. Their local commanders had already asked the major to "quit the service."

"Life is one thing," he said, "but no one has any desire to die so badly."

This case of mass insubordination on the part of Russian Federation MVD crack subunits involved in events in Chechnya is effectively the first to have become known. The command and their conscience will decide the guilt of the Yekaterinburg OMON personnel who disobeyed combat orders. IZVESTIYA intends to carry on covering this unprecedented event, which may set a precedent for mass insubordination within the Russian troops.

Commander Rejects Desertion Claims

LD1001184195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1814 GMT 10 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nadezhda Potapova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yekaterinburg January 10 TASS—Commander of the elite OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] riot police unit in the Sverdlovsk region rejected today media reports that his soldiers deserted from the battlefields in Chechnya and deliberately left the rebel republic for their home in the Urals.

Colonel Vladimir Golubykh told reporters on Tuesday [10 January] that indeed the servicemen returned to their base in the city of Yekaterinburg on January 4, but it was done "according to a schedule". "It was a rotation of one group which took part in the (Chechen) operation for another", he said adding that "everybody are indignant over the false report".

The Moscow daily IZVESTIYA quoted today an officer from the Yekaterinburg OMON as saying that his unit had ignored orders to remain in Chechnya for another few weeks and decided to walk out instead.

According to Colonel Golubykh, a new group from the Yekaterinburg OMON is already operating in Chechnya being "in good fighting spirits", whereas those who returned are now undergoing medical tests since some of them caught cold there.

Kozyrev on Restoration of Chechen Constitutional Order

LD1001200695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1946 GMT 10 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 10 (TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed the intention of the Russian authorities to fully ensure the observation of human rights in Chechnya.

When meeting representative of the OSCE [Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe] leadership and

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Hungarian ambassador Istvan Gyarmati today, the Russian minister described restoration of constitutional order in Chechnya as an internal affair of the Russian Federation. This is understood by international partners of Russia. They are concentrating on human rights, which exceed the national framework in accordance with OSCE principles.

Russian plenipotentiary for human rights Sergey Kovalev and a temporary observer commission for observation of civil rights and freedoms in the republic headed by Minister of Justice Valentin Kovalev are collecting information on the human rights situation in Chechnya for the Russian federal authorities. Kozyrev believes that the key task is to restore the validity of all rights and freedoms that were infringed by the Dudayev regime for three years on Chechen territory.

Russia is constantly exchanging opinion on the Chechen situation with international partners. In the words of Kozyrev, he had a long telephone conversation with his French counterpart Alain Juppe before the meeting.

Gyarmati told correspondents upon the meeting completion that OSCE can soon send its representatives to the Chechen region for independent collection of information on human rights in Chechnya and estimate the need for humanitarian assistance.

Reportage Sees Army Unprepared for Street Fighting

MM1101095995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 January 1995 carries on page 4 under the headline "Shooting the 131st Maykop Brigade" a 2,200-word report by Viktor Litovkin on his visit to a new military hospital housed in a former Intourist hotel at an airport to the north of Groznyy where the remnants of the 131st Maykop Motorized Rifle Brigade have mustered.

"This is the same brigade which, on New Year's Eve 1994, seized the Groznyy Train Station and was then literally torn and shot to pieces by the Dudayev militia over the next 24 hours.

"Almost all the brigade's officers, including its commander—Colonel Ivan Savin—were killed. Twenty (!) of the 26 tanks that went into Groznyy were burned. Only 18 of the 120 infantry fighting vehicles were evacuated from the city. All six 'Tunguska' surface-to-air missile systems were completely destroyed.

"Seventy-four people together with the leader of the corps' operations section, were captured by Dudayev—they and dozens of unclaimed corpses of half-burned comrades in the square in front of the presidential palace and on the streets of the city were shown before Christmas on all the TV channels, which spoke of the militia's colossal military success and the failure of the Russian military operation to disarm the mutinous city. The prisoners' names have even been read out on foreign radio stations."

The report continues with a detailed account of the fighting faced by the brigade on the ground, and goes on to quote Lieutenant Aleksandr Labzenko, commander of a surface-to-air missile division platoon. He says that he "sees the reason for his brigade's failure as being that they were not trained to fight in cities and that an enormous amount of armored equipment, thoughtlessly left in narrow streets without any cover, was not protected by the infantry." He goes on to say that "there is a lack of even basic cooperation between different subunits and their commanders and subordinates. Without any clear command any subunit is doomed—he reminded me about the service regulations which are drummed into people at tactical faculties even at civilian higher educational establishments."

Litovkin continues: "A general whom I know—the deputy commander of the North Caucasus Military District—said angrily:

"'We will always stupidly lose hundreds and thousands of our people and keep on making the same tragic mistakes if former kolkhoz chairmen are in charge of generals, combat operations, and the Army itself. Their judgments of military art are based on old textbooks of party history—they demand that we seize as a priority telephone and telegraph exchanges, railroad stations, bridges, and winter palaces. And this is not forgetting socialist duties—carrying out combat missions by set dates (whether by the New Year or without firing a shot, but it must be finished by 5 January).'

"We have long lacked an army, the general told me. We have a broken vessel the pieces of which cannot be put back together—all the more so as many of the pieces have long been missing. We will not be able to drink from this vessel for a long time to come. But we still hope that it can do something, we still demand things of it."

The report concludes with details of Lt. Labzenko's personal living conditions.

Rail Traffic to Transcaucasus May Resume Soon

MM1101132195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Trains Will Run to Transcaucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Transit freight and passenger train traffic may begin between Russia and the Transcaucas in the next few days "if it proves possible to avoid particularly serious emergencies," according to a report by the Ministry of Railways Press Service carried by INTERFAX Monday [9 January].

The report notes that the first working train "carrying mine disposal specialists and repair workers made its

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way" to Chervlennaya Station on the northern—"Terek—route from Mozdok through Ishcherskaya, Alpatovo, Naurskaya, Terek, and Solushkino."

Regional Leaders More Critical of Chechnya Operation

MK1101115695 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev: "Moscow Has Switched From Wrath to Mercy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Having celebrated the New Year with an assault on Groznyy, and Christmas with massive bombing of the city, Moscow decided for the sake of variety to mark the approaching Old-Style New Year by a peaceful action. Yesterday morning the 48-hour truce, proposed by the Russian government, went into effect, during which time the Chechens are to lay down their arms and return their prisoners. Judging by the ultimatum-like language of the statement and the airlifting to Chechnya of new shock units, not even Moscow believes that this initiative will be effective. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev, among others, discussed the question of the two-day truce with Viktor Chernomyrdin. However, the premier must have creatively revised the human right activist's ideas, as a result of which Kovalev's proposal to use the ceasefire to evacuate the wounded and captured and to retrieve the bodies of dead Russian soldiers turned into a government demand for the unconditional surrender of Dudayev's supporters. This demand, just like other overbearing statements by the Russian leadership, may produce rather a reverse effect, as is confirmed by yesterday's reports from Groznyy of continued exchanges of fire and renewed artillery bombardment of residential areas. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the number of regional leaders critical of the military action in Chechnya continues to grow. Yesterday Viktor Ishayev, head of the Khabarovsk Kray administration, asked Boris Yeltsin to suspend combat operations and open "constructive negotiations" with the Chechens. The statement by Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the North Ossetian parliament, was even tougher: The speaker not only opposed military-force methods but also put the blame for the bloodshed on the federal authorities, which, according to him, over the last three years have demonstratively distanced themselves from the Chechen problems. Even a staunch supporter of the president, Yuriy Luzhkov, could not refrain from criticizing the Chechen campaign. The truth is, according to the Moscow mayor, that justified and necessary actions by the presidential power were nullified by the "absolutely ineffectual" military operation because "at the operating table there were not specialists who know how to use the scalpel but butchers."

Mercenaries Detained Intelligence Operation in Chechnya

LD1101120695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia), Jan 11 (INTERFAX)— Three mercenaries from former Soviet republics, among them one citizen of a Baltic state, were detained in an operation conducted by the military counter-intelligence in Chechnya. This was reported to Interfax Wednesday [11 January] by well-informed sources in Mozdok where the headquarters of the federal troops are located.

According to them, former gang members are being discovered during general checkups.

Dudayev Claims 18,000 Civilians Killed in Chechnya

LD1101170295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to FRANCE PRESSE reports, Dzhokhar Dudayev has, for the first time in the past month, a news conference today in Groznyy, several kilometers from the city center. As our correspondent Vladimir Varfolomeyev reports, the news conference was held in the atmosphere of high secrecy.

[Varfolomeyev] One could single out, perhaps, two main points. The president confirmed that he is still ready for peace talks with Russia. There can be no victors in such a war, there are only losers. Dzhokhar Dudayev admitted that his republic cannot stand against a large power, in purely physical terms. But—and I quote—no one, except the Almighty, can take away the moral spirit of the nation and its desire for freedom.

Finally, the question of losses suffered by the sides. The president noted with regret that the civilian population is suffering the most. According to the information to date, 18,000 inhabitants of Groznyy and other regions of the republic were killed and wounded as a result of Russian Army operations. As for the losses among the Chechen fighters and the Russian servicemen, Dzhokhar Dudayev did not give exact figures. But, according to him, the overall proportion between the defenders and attackers killed is one to 50.

Dudayev Ready for Talks on 'Known Conditions'

LD1101164595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1628 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 11 Jan—Dzhokhar Dudayev held a news conference in a Groznyy surburb today. He told correspondents that "he is ready for talks on the conditions known to the Russian leadership."

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Once again, Dudayev stated a "resoluteness to strive for sovereignty, but not through hostilities but rather on the basis of full-scale political dialogue."

Chernomyrdin To Study Northern Caucasus Economy

LD1101172895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1701 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] Chairman of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin intends to visit the northern Caucasus region "in order to study the situation and the organization of work on the economic development of the region and the restoration of Chechnya's economy."

Journalists were told this today by head of the Federation Council's press center Yuriy Algunov. He did not know the date of the tour.

Truce in Chechnya Reportedly Being Observed

LD1101174595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 11 TASS—The 48-hour truce in Chechnya announced on Tuesday [10 January] has saved the lives of dozens, or perhaps even hundreds of residents of Groznyy who have left cellars and shelters for the first time in weeks.

People, after weeks in cold and starvation, are gathering in the streets awaiting humanitarian aid, bread, matches and drinking water.

Those who want to leave the city—women, children, the elderly and sick people—are huddling together in the centre of Groznyy, waiting for transport. Russian soldiers help them into the trucks.

On the whole, the sides have been observing the cease-fire broken now and then only by sporadic gunfire somewhere in the outskirts of the city.

Special Purpose Division To Be Sent to Chechnya

LD1101224695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our camera crew filmed these shots at the disposition of the ODON—the independent operational division [otdelnaya divisiya operativnogo naznacheniya] better known as the former Dzerzhinskiy division— on the Gorkovskiy motorway early this morning.

According to some information, the units of this elite division of the Interior Ministry troops were to be transferred to Chechnya on 11 December [as heard]. There were reports about a possible redeployment to Mozdok as long ago as before the New Year but the final decision to replace independent units of the Russian Defense Ministry in some Chechen areas with interior troops has been made recently.

From the Chkalovskiy airfield near Moscow about 4,500 people—approximately three regiments—will be sent to the zone of the armed conflict in the next few days. These are the units best prepared which have combat experience. They are built up to the prescribed strength with officers and soldiers.

The Vityaz special purpose detachment has been there since October last year. Since 1988 the total number of business trips of the division units to hot spots has exceeded 20, and the first clash with Chechen formations took place as long ago as during the war in Abkhazia.

To all appearances, we were the only journalists who witnessed today's event. This is Ivan Bolonikhin and Yevgeniy Kurchak, for the NTV television company.

Military Leaders Meet, Discuss Cease-Fire

LD1101204895 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2001 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon hostilities in central Groznyy abated, and this allowed military leaders of both sides to meet and discuss the possibilities for enforcing the truce. The talks were attended by Khamzat Yandaderbiyev, deputy speaker of the Chechen parliament, and Russian Army General Ivan Babichev. The sides exchanged mutual accusations with regard to violating the 48-hour truce.

Meanwhile, according to an official government report, fire is opened only as an appropriate measure when Chechen gangs violate the cease-fire. Twenty fighters and three guns were destroyed by reply fire. Aviation is conducting air reconnaissance and carrying troops and cargo.

Government Statement Issued on Chechnya Situation

LD1101201695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2010 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The Press Service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Wednesday [11 January]:

"According to commanders of the Federal Armed Forces, Russian troops continue to carry out their tasks to blockade the streets of Groznyy, bring in reserves, and augment ammunition and logistics resources.

"Aviation is conducting aerial reconnaissance and transporting troops and cargoes.

"Fire is opened only in response to violations of cease-fire by (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev's illegal

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armed groups as an adequate measure. A total of 20 militants and three heavy guns have been destroyed by retaliatory fire.

"Illegal armed groups continue to retreat in an organised manner to southern districts of the Chechen Republic along the Achkhoy-Martan, Bamut and Shali, Serzhen-Yurt and Vedeno routes.

"Gantemirov's units opposing Dudayev continue to control the situation in Urus-Martan, Valerik and Gekhi. Local residents keep vigil on all accesses to these settlement, preventing the movement and deployment in them of illegal pro-Dudayev formations which have left Groznyy.

"A group of authorities of the Chechen community in Turkey has requested the ambassador of the Russian Federation to facilitate contacts with competent Russian representatives and participation of a 'public delegation' of the diaspora in the search for a way out of the crisis situation. Former Chief of the Turkey General Staff D. gueres, who is of Chechen extraction, is ready to head the delegation."

Dudayev: Solution in 'One Stroke of the Pen'

LD1101212695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—Armed clashes between Russian troops and Chechen volunteers have left 18,000 civilians killed, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev told a news conference in the suburbs of Groznyy Wednesday [11 January]. According to Dudayev, casualties of Russian troops along the engagement line were 50 Russian servicemen to one Chechen militant.

Asked by an Interfax correspondent whether a peace settlement of the conflict was still possible today, Dudayev said it "could be solved in one day and one hour" by exclusively peaceful means. He said the Chechen issue "could be settled with one stroke of the pen, by sitting at the negotiation table to stop bloodshed."

"When your house is on fire, the fire must be quelled. Only after that, talks can be maintained on other issues," he said.

"Neither the Russian people is embittered against the Chechen, nor the Chechen people against the Russians, there are no grounds for that. We are all victims of the foolish policy of people with sick imagination," he continued.

The news conference was held in a sanatorium located in one of the western suburbs of Groznyy. Last time, Dudayev appeared before journalists at the news conference in his bunker under the presidential palace on December 21.

Russian Troops Try To Seal Off Presidential Palace

LD1101212995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2117 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 11 (Interfax)—Russian troops undertook an attempt to seal off the presidential palace in Groznyy Wednesday [11 January], an Interfax correspondent reported. Several groups of Russian servicemen were positioned across the river Sunzha to cut the Lenin street, the only way militants, food and ammunitions come to the palace.

The Interfax correspondent said federal troops were shelling the bridge across the river and densely concentrated Chechen militants on the right bank with mortars.

Groznyy has been shelled with artillery and mortars both this night and afternoon, he added.

According to the Chechen command, Russian aircraft dealt a number of bomb strikes all over the republic Wednesday night.

In the meantime, Russian armored vehicles have continued to move towards the Chechen capital. The Interfax correspondent said more than 40 armored vehicles passed along the highway Rostov-Baku from Ingushetia to Chechnya Wednesday.

About 100 Russian armored vehicles passed in the same direction over the last 48 hours.

Dense bushes are cut down along the highway to prevent possible attacks against motorcades.

Baltic Fleet Marines Depart Kaliningrad for Chechnya

LD1101235495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2328 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kaliningrad, 12 Jan—A subunit of Baltic Fleet marines left Kaliningrad for Chechnya on Wednesday [12 January] to take part in the disarmament of unlawful bandit formations in Chechnya. The fleet press center has not provided any details in its report, which is merely an official confirmation of fact. A contact telephone number for parents to receive information on the fate of their sons is also given.

Combatants of the 11th Army stationed in Kaliningrad Oblast were earlier sent to Chechnya.

Grachev Addresses Journalists at Mozdok Airfield

MM1101180395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Falichev: "'I Did Not Promise a Blitzkrieg,' Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev Told Journalists"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister arrived in Mozdok 11 January.

"The Russian Government has yet again expressed the readiness to cease fire," Army General Pavel Grachev said, answering journalists' questions at the airfield, "and to resume the negotiations process. But we realized that in Chechnya there is now simply no one to talk with us. In Groznyy uncoordinated actions by uncontrolled bandit formations are under way. The truce is not being observed although we have not opened fire on our side. So that if the enemy does not fulfill the terms of the ultimatum we will have to build up our efforts to begin more vigorous combat operations. Has this war been dragged out? It has not. That is how it should have been. The point is that the other side is resisting not only in Groznyy but also on the territory of the entire republic. So combat operations may continue for a long time yet with perhaps less vigor than in recent days.

"The mass media are interpreting this issue in various ways," the minister noted. "As a rule the arguments have a dilettantish ring. Even those of some politicians and military leaders who, without coming here, are drawing some kind of conclusions in Moscow.

"If we were to accelerate the pace of the offensive, the pace of the war, and spare neither soldiers nor officers we would hardly be acting correctly. On the contrary, we would lose more people. So we are acting cautiously. In fulfilling the president's edict we are not using all means of armed struggle and we are mindful of the civilian inhabitants.

"This is a highly unique war," Army General Grachev continued. "If there were no restrictions it would be possible to resolve all tasks more rapidly and with smaller losses. But has anyone spoken of a blitzkrieg? I personally did not mention it, nor did the internal affairs minister. I realize very well what the situation was like even at the first Security Council, when I was assured that the Chechens would almost scatter flour on the road and welcome us with open arms and I said: Guys, you are very wrong. There will be a real war. A long one, lasting many years.

"The president and government," the minister concluded, "assess the Russian troops' actions positively, particularly noting the heroism and courage of our soldiers, officers, and generals. It is important that most people realize that they are fighting for Russia's integrity. That is the most important thing."

Groznyy Shelled Following Truce Expiration

AU1201084795 Paris AFP in English 0548 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, Jan 12 (AFP)—Russian artillery resumed shelling of central Groznyy at 08:00 AM at the end of a 48-hour truce offered by Moscow, correspondents reported.

The guns opened up at exactly 08:00 AM. The gunfire was audible 3.5 kilometres (two miles) from the city centre AFP correspondents said.

Already on Wednesday night, Russian artillery stepped up its attacks on Groznyy and Russian aircraft were heard overflying the Chechen capital.

Although the ceasefire was violated almost as soon as it began Tuesday morning, the past 48 hours saw a lull in the battle raging in Groznyy between Russian forces and Chechen separatists.

The heavily-defended palace of separatist leader President Dzhokhar Dudayev remains the main target of Russian forces who marched into Chechnya a month ago to crush the republic's bid to secede from the Russian Federation.

Chechens Hand Over POWs To Committee of Soldiers' Mothers

LD1201095495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 12 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—Chechen militants fulfilled their promise and handed over several Russian POWs to their mothers who arrived in the Chechen capital on January 8 to look for their sons.

"The mothers found their sons-hostages. All are alive and are waiting for departure to Moscow", Valentina Melnikova, a spokesman of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, told TASS on Thursday [12 January] adding that the mothers and their sons are expected in Moscow on Friday.

She did not specify how many POWs were handed over to their parents. However, Melnikova said that 13 mothers and two activists of the committee went to Groznyy which might mean that at least a dozen of POWs were freed.

The mothers went to Groznyy after a delegation of Chechen women brought to Moscow a list of nearly 80 Russian POWs seized in fighting before new year.

The women said Chechen militants agreed to hand over the POWs only to their mothers, and not to the military or State Duma deputies staying in Groznyy.

Abdulatipov Denies Abkhazia Trains Chechnya Mercenaries

LD1201100295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 12 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—Deputy speaker of the Federation Council Ramazan Abdulatipov denied reports made public by his direct

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superior, Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, about an alleged training of mercenaries for Chechnya by the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Abdulatipov, who has just returned from Abkhazia where he checked the reports about military bases training mercenaries for Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, told TASS on Thursday [12 January] that he "found nothing of the kind" there.

The reports were earlier denied by Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba and chief Russian peace-keeper in Abkhazia Vasiliy Yakushev.

Shumeyko's claim was made public before the Federation Council had to decide whether to extend the stay of Russian peace-keepers in Abkhazia or not. The speaker proposed to withdraw them in retaliation for the alleged training of mercenaries. The idea was immediately opposed by Ardzinba.

Now Abdulatipov signalled a change in the intentions. He opposed the withdrawal of the peace-keepers and said "the attitude of the population to Russian soldiers is very good and hopes for maintaining and strengthening peace are pinned on them".

The upper chamber of the Russian Parliament is to consider the extension of the stay of Russian peace-keepers in Abkhazia on January 17, Abdulatipov said.

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International Affairs

Kravchuk To Appeal to Carter During U.S. Trip

LD1101195595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Ukraine's former president Leonid Kravchuk will depart next week for the United States where he is due to meet ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Kravchuk told a news conference on 11 January. The purpose of the meeting, according to Kravchuk, is to draw the world's attention to Chechnya, and appeal for the defense of human rights in the breakaway republic, and an end to Russia's aggression.

"What is happening in Chechnya is not an accident but a real attempt to implement the new Russian policy aimed at the restoration of the USSR," he said. "In the future, we can expect pressure on the Slavic states, particularly Ukraine and Belarus."

The ex-president said that he, Carter, and Kazakh writer Olzhas Suleymenov planned to set up a special fund in support of human rights.

Space Agency Chief on U.S. Booster Rockets Decision

LD1101140795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 11 BUSINESS-TASS—The U.S. Department of Commerce has decided to use Ukrainian booster rockets of the Zenit series in its low-orbit satellite communication network "Global Star", according to Andrey Zhalko-Titarenko, chief of the Ukrainian Space Agency.

Within the framework of the programme, Ukrainian boosters will put into orbit 24 satellites, which will earn the country more than 50 million dollars. Part of this amount will be paid to Russia for the use of its space centers from which the satellites will be launched.

In conformity with the agreement on cooperation in space between Ukraine and the United States, a Ukrainian cosmonaut will fly aboard an American shuttle spacecraft. A detailed programme for this mission has yet to be worked out.

Official Says Agreement With Russia in Kiev's 'Interest'

LD1101172095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev January 11 TASS—A wide-ranging agreement on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia is to Ukraine's interest first of all, Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the Ukrainian president's administration, told a press-conference here on Wednesday [11 January].

The document will contribute to Ukraine's image in the eyes of the world community as well as to relations between the two countries and in all Europe, he said.

According to Tabachnyk, the agreement will seal Ukraine's territorial integrity, inviolability of its borders and a number of other important provisions.

The document is almost prepared for signing. Russia has made concessions recently and withdrawn some of its proposals. In particular, Russia does not insist any longer on including dual citizenship in the agreement.

Military Cooperation Agreement To Be Signed With France

LD1101205095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan 11 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—France and Ukraine intend to sign an agreement on military cooperation and arms production, French Ambassador to Ukraine Michel-Yves Peissik told Ukrainian Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz.

During the conversation, Peissik said that an official military delegation headed by the French defense minister will soon arrive in Kiev to sign relevant documents.

In addition, a large group of French industrialists and businessmen is expected to visit Ukraine to discuss joint military conversion projects.

The meeting was held on the occasion of the French ambassador's departure for his country.

During the meeting, Moroz supported widening cooperation between Ukraine and France. French-Ukrainian joint ventures in various branches of Ukraine's economy could be very promising as well as introduction of French selection and industrial technologies in Ukraine's agriculture.

National Affairs

Foreign Ministry: 50 Volunteers Fighting on Dudayev's Side

LD1101153495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 11 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 11 Jan—According to the information of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, about 50 Ukrainian volunteers are fighting on the side of the Chechen militants. This was reported today by Yuriy Sergeyev, an official of Ukraine's foreign affairs department.

The representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry reminded that a recent amendment to the Ukrainian

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legislature penalizes mercenaries and recruiters. However, according to him, the Ukrainian authorities had not received a single piece of evidence to prove that Ukrainian citizens were taking part in the military conflict in Chechnya as mercenaries.

Sergeyev said that the volunteers were members of ultra-nationalistic organizations and Crimean Tartars.

Marines Appeal to Black Sea Fleet Units on Chechnya

LD1101233795 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's Naval Forces' Marines are calling for reasonableness. Reports have appeared in the Russian mass media to the effect that Black Sea Fleet marine units are getting ready for combat operations on the territory of Chechnya. Although these rumors have not been officially confirmed, they evoke concern among the citizens of Ukraine, including its servicemen.

In this connection, the personnel of the Crimea-based Marine Infantry formation of Ukraine's Armed Forces at its general meeting adopted an appeal to their Black Sea Fleet counterparts. It points out that any use of Black Sea Fleet units in Chechnya will mean Ukraine's involvement in the conflict, because from the legal viewpoint, the fleet is subordinated to the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which could complicate the already complex situation in Sevastopol and in Crimea as a whole.

Kravchuk Leads New Movement Opposing Restoration of USSR

LD1101211495 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 11 Jan—A new public organization, the All-Ukrainian Association for Understanding [vseukrayinske obyednannya porozuminnya], held a meeting of its organizational committee, chaired by Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk. The meeting was attended by well-known public and political figures, and some of Ukraine's deputies. Speaking about the background behind the new movement, Kravchuk told the audience that he had always been a consistent supporter of social consolidation in the name of democracy and state independence for the Ukrainian people.

"Lately I was able to spend more time talking to people," he said, "and came to the conclusion that the idea of nationwide understanding was warmly supported by the greater majority of Ukrainian citizens." This is expressed in hundreds of letters from various corners of the country addressed to Leonid Kravchuk as a deputy and as the first president of Ukraine.

The meeting proclaimed the fundamental principles of the associations's program and organizational structure.

Speaking at a news conference after the meeting, the former president revealed that 54 people had joined the organization so far. These include members of the Supreme Council presidium Anatoliy Danylenko, Petro Sheyko, and Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, as well as deputies Pavlo Movchan, Mykola Zhulynskyy, Volodymyr Mulyava, Roman Omelchuk and others. This organization is established to protect statehood and oppose the movement for restoration of the Soviet Union, Kravchuk stressed.

He added that the All-Ukrainian Association for Understanding was soon to hold a founding congress that would elect its leader.

Russia To Export 24 Million Tons of Oil Without Prepayment

WS1201103995 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information provided for INFOBANK by Stepan Yaloveha, head of the press-service of the Ukrainian State Commitee for Gas and Oil, in 1995 Russia will reduce the supply of energy resources to those CIS countries which did not pay back their debts for earlier supplies. Yaloveha added that in 1995 the Russian Government will introduce a full payment-in-advance system for energy resources exported to CIS countries. However, in accordance with previous intergovernmental agreements between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the latter promised to export to Ukraine 24 million tons of oil at world prices without requiring payment in advance. Yaloveha said that in the near future a Ukrainian Government delegation will visit Moscow in order to clear up any problems caused by the new demands of the Russian Government.

Parliament Debates Suspension of Live Radio, TV Coverage

LD1101180095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Proposals from parliamentary committees on changes to the coverage of the third session of the Supreme Council, to begin on 17 January, are under discussion at the Supreme Council of Ukraine Committee for Legislative Provision for the Freedom of Speech and Mass Media. The Committee for Basic Industries and Regional Socioeconomic Development, in particular, believes parliamentary hearings on the issues of major importance only merit full coverage, while information about the rest should be provided in the form of brief reports. The committee proposes there should be more "Deputies' Channel" programs featuring parliamentary committees, groups and groupings, rather than individual deputies.

The Supreme Council Law and Order Committee also opposes live radio and TV coverage of the session.

The Freedom of Speech and Mass Media Committee wants the session's coverage to be looked at by the Supreme Council's Press Service, with the former readying a respective draft resolution. The final decision is to be made by the Supreme Council on 17 January, the first working day of its third session.

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Belarus

KGB Verifies Recruitment of Mercenaries To Fight Chechnya

WS1201095895 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0554 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The news that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation are being engaged in the recruitment of Belarusian citizens for participation in military operations against the supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev in Chechnya is at the level of rumors. This was announced to a BELAPAN correspondent at the press-service of Belarus' Committee for State Security [KGB]. At the moment the committee is verifying this information and has available no true facts confirming or refuting it.

Ministers Critique New Agreements With Russia

WS1101152595 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 5 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Valyantsin Zhdanko: "Energy Sources for Preferential Prices in Exchange for Free Transit and Military Facilities on Our Territory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] January 1995 is probably going to become the month when the direction and the nature of relations of Belarus with its present main economic partner, Russia, will be determined. It is planned that Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakow will visit Belarus at the beginning of this month to sign eight agreements and protocols concerning specific projects on integration in the economic and military spheres. A visit by Boris Yeltsin is set for late January. During this visit, a comprehensive bilateral agreement on friendship and cooperation is expected to be signed.

On 3 January, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka held a meeting at the Cabinet of Ministers devoted to the already devised drafts of bilateral agreements. At the beginning of the meeting, many ministers suggested that journalists be kept out of the room due to the sensitive nature of the topic and military secrets. The president insisted that the media be present at the meeting. As for military and state secrets, Mr. Lukashenka advised the ministers to talk about them during confidential meetings.

What was said at the collegium of the Cabinet of Ministers? What specific documents are they planning to sign? What concessions will Belarus have to make in exchange for cheap Russian energy sources—when they will actually be delivered to us?

The Bilateral Friendship and Cooperation Agreement: Provision on Transit Is Excluded

A full-scale treaty between Belarus and Russia signed by Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Boris Yeltsin will not contain a chapter on the mutual free transit of goods. This issue was moved out of the treaty and linked to other aspects of economic relations. Thus, as a whole, the treaty is typical for this kind of document and has a partnership-like nature.

Another thing that Moscow suggested is that simultaneously with the treaty, the state leaders should sign the "Memorandum on Expanding Cooperation" covering a range of specific fields in the economic and military spheres. For example, the memorandum said that Russia will be able to purchase our property in exchange for the repayment of our debts for energy sources and that the free transit and stationing of Russian military bases—very beneficial for Russia—will be preserved.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko criticized the very idea of the memorandum. In his opinion, if signed, this document will narrow room for maneuvering; besides, it is only beneficial to Russia. Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich disagreed with the foreign minister. He said that amendments could be introduced to the draft memorandum, but it should not be rejected altogether. Vyachaslaw Kuznetsow, deputy legislative speaker, doubted whether such a memorandum is necessary in addition to a full-scale treaty.

Will Belarus Receive Cheap Gas and Oil?

This problem is presently central to our economy, because it will decide whether or not our enterprises will stay afloat in the next few months. To get energy sources at Russian domestic prices or at least prices lower than the world ones, our leadership is ready to make considerable concessions in the military, transit, and foreign trade spheres. But where is the guarantee that even with the above concessions, we will actually receive gas and oil at conditions favorable to us?

Stanislaw Bahdankevich strongly advised the president to take a tough position in talks with the Russian side on equal prices, and reminded that "we will lose all powers as soon as Russia transfers to world prices."

Mikhail Marynich, minister of foreign economic relations, noted that the protocol "On Mutual Free Trade Without Restrictions and Exclusions" does not speak clearly about the problem of equal prices, and that it would be worthwhile to introduce an unequivocal statement as to what energy sources and what quantity will have the same price in Belarus and Russia. Mr. Marynich has already sought to incorporate this formulation into the draft. His Russian colleagues, however, turned down his proposal, saying that the problem can only be resolved by the presidents.

Mr. Lukashenka agreed with Mr. Marynich and said that hopefully, he will come to terms with Boris Yeltsin and noted that without this agreement on equal prices and equal access to the markets of each other, the treaty makes no sense.

Truth, where would we be if Russia transfers to world prices for energy sources as soon as this year? (Russia has

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already adopted a program removing in 1995 the state regulation from oil prices). Will we not make fools of ourselves by unreasonably opening a free transit corridor and charging nothing for the presence of potentially dangerous Russian military facilities on our territory?

Mr. Lukashenka repeatedly came back to this problem, stressing that there can be no unilateral concessions on our part and saying that, as the president, he will never sign a treaty that would prove disgraceful for him and for the next generations of Belarusian citizens.

The Price of Cheap Oil—Free Transit and Free Stationing of Military Facilities

It should be noted immediately: our experts estimate that the advantage coming from cheap energy sources considerably exceeds profits to be derived from the free transit and renting of land for military bases. The problem is whether we will manage to receive this cheap gas and oil. Even if we do, how long will it last?

As for the military bases (specifically, the antimissile radar station in Hantsavichy and the Baltic Sea Fleet communications center in Vileyka), the Russian side insists that Belarus charge no money for their presence on our territory for 25 years. Mr. Syanko described this demand as absolutely unacceptable, and said that their operation should be regulated by a treaty on rents and limited to a shorter term. Generally speaking, it would be only logical to link this term to the terms during which Belarus will receive energy sources on a preferential basis.

The Customs Union: Who Will Decide About the Fate of Our Economic Relations with Third Countries?

Following the report by Pyatro Krechka, chairman of the Customs Committee, head of the president's administration Leanid Sinitsyn asked why the draft treaty contained a discriminative norm putting Moscow in charge of our foreign trade relations with third countries and saying that Belarus delegates all of its powers to Russia. Mr. Krechka explained that this was a condition set by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. Listening to this, the president noted that we should look first of all to our ministry for guidelines on this matter. Mr. Marynich said that his ministry recommended that they replace this formulation with a more general and mutually acceptable one: relations with third countries should be established "based on mutual consultations of the interested parties."

The main impression following the three hours spent at the Cabinet of Ministers is as follows: many government leaders, including the president, have a sincere desire to seek beneficial agreements for the country and avoid unilateral and detrimental concessions.

Will they succeed, taken into consideration the fact that in Moscow, more experienced professionals, knowing more about diplomatic games and intrigues, work on this treaty? If only we could supplement our desires with experience...

Economic Agreement Signed With Bordering Russian Rayons

WS1201093595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A multilateral agreement for 1995 in all areas of economic cooperation was signed by the leaders of neighboring Belarusian and Russian rayons—Khotsim rayon in Mahilyow Oblast, Krasnyansk and Surazh rayons in Bryansk Oblast, and [name indistinct] rayon in Smolensk Oblast. The cooperation program has become an annual and traditional event, regardless of the unstable situation in both countries.

Moldova

Russian Defense Officials' Postpone Visit to Chisinau

AU1201091795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2300 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/1/1995—Military sources relayed that today three commissions from the Russian Defense Ministry were to arrive in Moldova to inspect the 14th Army. This visit follows the death of the 14th Army officer Igor Golikov, employee of the Tiraspol Military Command. Sources close to the 14th Army Command told BASAPRESS that the Dniester Security Ministry requested the dispatch of these commissions. The ministry was earlier accused of killing Golikov. According to the 14th Army Command, the commissions comprise representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defense who harbor sentiments of dislike toward General Lebed stemming from his stern statements regarding the intervention of Russian federal military forces in Chechnya. BASAPRESS learned that the commissions' arrival was postponed. According to the quoted sources, Vladimir Semionov, Russian ground troops commander, attempts to prevent General Lebed's discharge. Tomorrow, General Konstantin Kobets, Russian vice defense minister, regarded as one of Lebed's opponents, will arrive in Tiraspol. The Tiraspol airport being closed due to bad weather, the airplane carrying the commission was to land in Chisinau. However, their journey was postponed for unknown reasons.

Popular Front To Abstain From 16 Apr Elections

AU1101141895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 10/01/1995—The Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCD] has taken a decision to abstain from local elections due on April 16. That decision was made public at today's news conference in Chisinau.

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The Front's written statement reads that the recently adopted laws on local elections, on administrative-territorial set-up, and on local public administration "seek to preserve the Soviet system of regional and local governance. The present-day authorities have preserved the old system of subdividing the republic into areas—administrative-territorial units unable to self-finance and provide their population, being totally dependent on the central authorities."

"By having passed such legislative acts, the ruling majority in Parliament have created a legislative framework for establishing dictatorship of the ruling party at all levels of state governance," reads the document.

"The constitutional principle of electivity of all power bodies thus becomes a myth. The law on local elections contains a series of anti-democratic provisions which enable the authorities to control the entire election process, to manipulate and falsify election results."

Stressing a principal intention to not nominate their candidates at the forthcoming local elections, the Popular Front points out that "a participation as an electoral subject would signify being recklessly caught in a trap set by the current rulers who thus want to accomplish the domination of a single party in all-level state structures."

The document indicates that the Popular Front's decision to abstain from the elections is aimed at attracting the world public's attention to the non-democratic legislation, and at succeeding in amending it. The decision does not mean boycotting the election, for the electorate must decide themselves whether to take part or not.

(BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Christian Democratic Popular Front is the biggest opposition movement in the republic, with well- developed structures across Moldova. At the last parliamentary elections in February 1994, the Front received some 7 percent votes, and has 9 deputies in the Parliament)

The Christian Democratic Popular Front considers its non- participation in the forthcoming local elections as the most adequate measure in the current socio-political situation.

Speaking about possible consequences of such a step, the chairman of the Front's Executive Committee, Sergiu Burca, said at today's news conference that "the consequences of such a political protest may be far-reaching. But they may be much sadder if we take part in the political gamesmanship."

Burca emphasized that the Popular Front was not imposing its opinion to other parties and the electorate, but was expressing hope that "democratically-oriented political forces will not remain involved in the electoral farce with programmed results." So far, no reaction followed from other political forces, he said.

The electorate's strivings toward left-wing forces have become quite evident, Burca said. He believes, however, that the local elections will in any case be won by the Agrarian Democratic Party, though most electors will not come to polling stations.

Answering INFOTAG's question about a possibility to use other forms of protest, Popular Front leaders have said that in the current socio-political situation such public manifestations as rallies cannot be the most effective form of protest expression. That is why the opposition is going to place more emphasis on explanatory work among grass-root people, to meet with the electorate in localities, actively using the Front's local structures.

Communist Party 'Not Yet Ready' To Partake in Elections

AU1101141995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 10/01/1995—"Since October 1993, when the Moldovan Communist Party [PCM] was registered, its membership grew up more than 10-fold," first secretary of the PCM Central Committee, Vladimir Voronin, said at today's news conference.

Currently, the party unites over 3 thousand people. Most of them were members of the former Communist Party of the Soviet Union, now prohibited in Moldova.

PCM's Chisinau subdivision unites some 1,400 members. According to Florin Khristev, second secretary of the PCM Central Committee, this is the biggest of 60 political organizations acting in the city.

The Communist Party does not have its territorial structures in only 6 areas—Telenesti, Cantemir, Causani, Cainari, Cimislia, and Glodeni.

At the first constituent congress of the PCM held last December, 37 percent delegates were aged under 40, which fact, in Voronin's opinion, indicates the party's considerable human potential.

Answering INFOTAG's question about the probability of early parliamentary and presidential elections, the party leaders replied, "that will depend on concrete political situation."

Vladimir Voronin said Moldovan communists were not yet ready for an active participation in parliamentary and presidential elections.

PCM To Participate in Elections as 'Separate Party'

AU1201092495 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2300 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 10/1/1995—At today's press conference by the Moldovan Communist Party [PCM] its leader generalized the results of the 1st Congress of the Moldovan Communist Party that has recently took place in Chisinau. Vladimir

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Voronin, PCM first secretary and ex-minister of interior, said that currently the PCM numbers 3,000 members in its territorial organizations in virtually all the districts from the Dniester's right bank excluding the districts of Telenesti, Cainari, Causeni, Cantemir, Cirnislia and Glodeni. Voronin also said that the PCM is ready to establish cooperation ties with all the communist parties formed under legal conditions. The collaboration with the Dniester communists is accepted only on the basis of the principle of a single Moldovan organization. Referring to the local elections scheduled for April 16, Voronin said that the PCM will participate in the elections as a separate party without making coalition with other parties. Voronin denounced the ruling party that has adopted a law that placed the agrarians out of competition. Not expecting too big results, the communists will participate in the elections at least to obtain a public rating for the PCM. The key objectives pursued by the Moldovan communists pertain to the remaking of the people's power. In their opinion, the Parliament, and the people alike were deprived of the right to decide on the course of privatization. According to the communists, the Government has completely entitled itself to administrate the property and to carry out a "forced implementation of capitalism."

Chisinau Owes Russia $210 Million for Gas Deliveries

AU1101163095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 10/01/1995—Moldova owes about $210 million to Gasprom of Russia for gas deliveries, not to mention fines, said Mikhail Lesnik, acting director general of the Moldovagas State Concern.

The debt problem is being solved in three directions, he explained. First: Utilization of a $40 million worth credit granted by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, of which $30 million has been transferred to Russia to repay for the fuel. Second: Clearing deliveries of Moldovan goods to Russia. As on early December, Moldovagas has shipped $7 million worth of goods to Russian consumers. Third: Establishment of Russian-Moldovan joint-stock company, "Gasosnabtransit," to supply Moldova with natural gas and to transit it to third countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Turkey.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Cunev, the joint-stock company has been founded by Gasprom of Russia, and by Moldovagas, Moldovatransgas, and Tiraspoltransgas of Moldova. The Russian share in the joint venture is 51 percent. For its share in the joint company, Moldovagas has contributed pipe lines and gas distribution stations worth $80 million located on the Moldovan territory. This sum has been subtracted from the Moldovan gas debt worth $210 million.

In Cunev's opinion, the establishment of the joint company is essential for several reasons:

—Gasprom is planning to sharply increase (to 35 billion cubic metres per annum) its gas transit through the Moldovan pipe lines, compared to 18 billion pumped currently.

—Moldova is unable to operate the powerful pipe lines. Most of the 600 kilometer long network was commissioned as long ago as in 1968, and it requires substantial repair and replacement at present.

The Prime Ministers of the two states have reached an agreement that in 1995 Moldova will be importing Russian gas at a price of $58 per 1,000 cubic metres, not $80 as in 1994. That will allow to save $62 million during the current year.

Thank to the lower purchase price, gas tariffs in Moldova are likely to be lowered by 25-30 percent.

For more economical fuel consumption, the republic is going to commence installation of gas meters for all consumers in 1995. "We are planning to use only two types of meters—made in France and Germany, with the first consignment to arrive in March," Mikhail Lesnik said.

Due to population's low buying capacity, Moldova is planning to install the meters "free of charge," at the expense of somewhat higher tariffs for gas.

(BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Moldova received first gas only in 1969. Since that time, overall gasification has been accomplished in 15 out of 21 cities and towns, in 24 out of 48 major urban-type communities, and in 92 villages, which, however, amounts to only 6.2 percent all villages in Moldova. At present, gas constitutes 30 percent in the republic's overall fuel consumption. Before the economic crisis burst out in 1992, Moldova used to import 4.5 billion cubic metres of gas annually. In 1994, the figure shrank to 2.8 billion. Over half of the volume is consumed by energy sector. In 1994, the State Budget allocated 2 million lei, that is $450 thousand, for gasification arrangements. Experts in Moldovagas believe that after the state-owned concern is transformed into a joint-stock company, additional sources of financing the gas sector will emerge. However, even after the transformation, the controlling block of shares shall remain with the State.)

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Kazakhstan

President Bans Use of Foreign Currency

LD1101140095 Almaty Kazakh Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In line with a decree issued by President Nazarbayev, as of 16 January 1995, the use of foreign currency in retail trade, as well as, in the service sector is banned on the territory of the Republic, with the exception of shops and service companies situated at international airports, railway stations, and ports. International transport services, including ticket sales, are also an exception.

Almaty Pursues Economic Integration With Slavic States

MK1101130495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Levin: "Aleksey Bolshakov's News Conference. Kazakhstan May Become the Third Member of the Slavic Axis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday [10 January], Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov held a news conference in Moscow devoted to the results of his ministerial talks. KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported on 10 January that a package of economic and military bilateral agreements was signed in Minsk. The Moscow visit by Kazakhstani First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin, which is due to begin today, may well elevate the Russian-Belarusian accords to a multilateral level. Alma-Ata [Almaty] is ready to discuss with the Russian side the terms and conditions of Kazakhstan's joining the Russian-Belarusian customs union.

The three-year experience of the newly-independent states' existence has shown that it is not yet possible fully to restore their old cooperative ties. A more urgent objective is the creation of a payments and customs unions within the CIS. Multilateral decisions to form a payments union and a free trade zone have already been made and the fundamentals of the CIS countries' customs legislation have been approved. However, the prospects for implementing the accords in practice are still uncertain. Against this backdrop, the Russian-Belarusian agreements on setting up the customs union and a prototype payments union have demonstrated ways of actual integration by creating a sort of center of attraction for CIS members. The Central Asian region remains another center of attraction. The Kazakhstani Government's decision to start talks on the republic's joining the CIS' first bilateral customs unions proves that Kazakhstan is once again leaning toward the Commonwealth's Slavic axis.

The history of Kazakhstan's relations with the three Slavic republics, first of all with Russia, has had its ups and downs. After the premiers of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine agreed on closer economic cooperation among their countries in the summer of 1993, "forgotten" Kazakhstan tried to redirect its policy toward signing a customs union treaty with Turkey. Owing to its worsening economic situation Turkey cannot now be an economic leader in Central Asia. Russia remains the sole actual donor of financing and raw materials for CIS countries. For this reason Kazakhstan's accession to the Russian-Belarusian customs and payments unions may be a fully realistic possibility, which, if realized, would significantly strengthen Moscow's position as the CIS's economic hub. If the matter is resolved successfully, Kazakhstan—following Belarus—would gain access to Russian resources at domestic prices. Russia, in turn, could continue using Kazakhstani territory without hindrance for the transit of its goods and could also obtain preferential treatment in operating military-space installations in the Republic.

Kyrgyzstan

Uzbekistan Cooperation, Gas Agreement Signed

LD1201093595 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the republican government reports that a government delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Osmonakun Ibraimov, has held talks in Tashkent with the leadership of the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A trade and economic cooperation agreement for 1955 was signed between the governments of the neighboring states. Particular attention was given at the talks to the further deepening and expansion of bilateral cooperation, specifically regarding the exchange of products. The contracting sides committed themselves to fulfill the provisions drawn up by the governments of the two countries.

Fulfillment of the agreement's provisions promises Kyrgyzstan 900 million cubic meters of gas priced at $65 per cubic meter, thus making the price and volume of the gas supply the same as last year. The republic thus no longer needs the 600,000 tonnes of coal which it was envisaged would make up for the shortfall in gas.

In exchange for the gas, Kyrgyzstan has committed itself to supply Uzbekistan with scrap ferrous and nonferrous metals, wool fabrics, starch, medicines, leather goods and other products.

Agriculture Ministry Told Not to Rely on Subsidies

LD1201093895 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kyrgyz Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov took part in a meeting of the board of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food today. The meeting discussed the implementation of agrarian and land reform and summed up the results of 1994.

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Agriculture has been affected negatively by the shortage of fuels and lubricants and the poor material and technical base. Participants in the board meeting also spoke about improving financial and credit policy. Farms owe 414 million soms to the banks and 213 million soms to the state.

Bekbulot Talgarbekov, first deputy minister of agriculture and food, urged the head of government to solve the debt problem affecting peasant farms and to work out a system of customs duties. Talgarbekov pointed out that despite the difficult situation affecting agriculture, the ministry is seeking to improve its work and to cooperate with World Bank experts.

The head of government expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. This sector is experiencing a serious crisis, Apas Dzhumagulov emphasized. A sector which should not only pay its own way but also provide raw materials for other industries has grown accustomed to the credits moving only in one direction, and this has led to an attitude of dependency.

The ministry and its leadership must improve joint work with local organizations. It must also facilitate the export of agricultural output. The establishment of trade associations and advertising companies has great importance here, (Dzhumagulov said).

You hold all the cards: a presidential decree and corresponding government resolutions. You should learn how to work under the new market economy conditions and not rely on state subsidies. Land reform should start taking off in 1995, otherwise it will become very difficult later on, Apas Dzhumagulov stressed.

Representatives from the Finance and Education Ministries, the State Property Fund, and the Education and Science Ministry took part in the work of this expanded-format board meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Meets Head of UN Military Observers

LD1101133195 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov, met Hasan Aziz, the head of the UN military observers in Tajikistan, and Raman Nishtal, the adviser of the UN military observers in Tajikistan.

During the conversation Rakhmanov pointed out that at present there are strong ties of cooperation between Tajikistan and the United Nations. He approved all the aspects of the United Nations efforts in safeguarding peace, which ensures peace and tranquility in the republic. The leadership of Tajikistan is observing the inter-Tajik agreement on a temporary ceasefire, and considers peace talks as the right way for ensuring normal situation. He expressed the hope that the process of the inter-Tajik talks will be finished rapidly and successfully.

The UN military observers informed Rakhmanov of the activity of the mission in Tajikistan. It was reported that another group of the UN military observers is expected to arrive in the republic in the near future.

During the conversation the sides expressed the opinion that they will further cooperate successfully.

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Armenia

Prime Minister Meets Iranian Envoy for Cooperation Talks

NC1101175095 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Prime Minister Hrand Bagratyan received Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Hamid Reza Miqar Esfahani on 10 January. Matters relating to the further development of cooperation between Armenia and Iran were examined. The need to expand and strengthen cooperation, particularly in the areas of energy, transportation, communications, agriculture, mining, tourism, science, culture, and fine arts, were stressed.

Econonic Talks Held With Iranian Delegation

NC1101202395 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1719 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] On January 11 a joint session of the Commission on Coordination of Armenian-Iranian ties and the Commission Iran-Armenia started its work in Yerevan. The Iranian delegation was headed by the Iranian Finance and Economics Minister Mohammad-Khani, the Armenian delegation was led by the Armenian Vice-President Gagik Harutyunyan. After the session was over, Gagik Harutyunyan reported that more than 10 issues as well as the course of iplementation of more than 20 agreements had been discussed. According to Vice-President, despite difficulties of political and technical character, the relations between Armenia and Iran are developing well and trade cooperation between the two countries is increasing.

Harutyunian underlined that the main areas for cooperation between the two states are transport and organization of transportation, energy, industry, agriculture science, education and culture.

The issues, concerning the elaboration of legal basis for cooperation with private sector were also the subject of discussion.

According to Vice-President, the two countries have entered into a stage of wide development of economic relations and iplementation of joint prospective programs.

Harutyunyan also said that a number of economic documents is to be signed. In the near future the Armenian Prime-Minister will visit Tehran to sign a range of documents.

Karabakh Denies Azerbaijani Report on Border Situation

NC1101185295 Yerevan SNARK in English 1619 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, 11 January (SNARK)—As inconsistent called the Azeri Defense Ministry statement on accumulation of live force and offensive arms at a number of places along the Karabakh-Azerbaijan confrontation line, the Deputy Commander of NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Defense Army, Serzh Arushanyan. Azeri propaganda machine usually starts disorientation of the world opinion during the periods of real and serious tendencies towards negotiations aimed to settle the conflict, he observed.

Mr. Arushanyan also pointed out that disinformation is intended to foil the positive changes taking place lately in political and economic life of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

Nagorno-Karabakh 'President' Names Cabinet

NC1101144195 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0951 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily), 01/11/95—NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] President issued a special order to create the NKR Government, consisting of the Prime Minister, his three deputies, Minister of Defense, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Chairman of Stepanakert city administration, Manager of the NKR Government.

By his second order, NKR President Robert Kocharyan accepted the offer of the NKR Prime Minister and, before discussion in the parliament, temporarily established the following structure: NKR Prime Minister, First Deputy President, who is acting Minister of Economy and Finances at the same time, other ministers, Chairmen of state departments, Director of the State Enterprise on Trade and Provisions, Chairman of "Artsakhavtochanaparh" [Nagorno-Karabakh Motor Roads] enterprise, Director of electricity network, Director of Communications enterprise, Chairman of the Department of Information and Press. Governmental structures of the NKR include 9 ministries, 7 state departments and 5 republican enterprises.

Robert Kocharyan also issued another order on the same day, concerning changes in governmental bodies of the Stepanakert city and NKR districts and eliminating the State Department of Defense [SDD]. According to the order, structures of SDD was converted into city and district administration. NKR Prime Minister was ordered to develop within ten days corresponding legislation.

Statements Issued on ARF Suspension

'Deputy Assembly' Statement

NC1101210195 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1219 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] On January 10, the so-called "Deputy Assembly"—the union of Supreme Council's deputies, who refused to

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participate in the work of the Parliament - made a statement, which tells,in particular:

"The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, having accused the ARF[Armenian Revolutionary Federation]-Dashnaktsutyun of the existence of secret terrorist structures within this organization, on December 28, 1994 suspended ARF-Dashnaktsutyun with his decree.

Deputy Assembly, denouncing terror, at the same time stated that in any legal state the facts of linking of the organizers and the executors of the terrorist actions as well as secret structures with any Party must be established by independent and impartial court.

According to the 7th article of Armenian law "On Public and Political Organizations" the Ministry of Justice, but not the State National Security Department controls the legality of Parties' activities. In fact, the State National Security Department, like former KGB, assumed the function of inspection and persecution of the political Parties.

Having implemented Armenian President's illegal decree new series of violation of elementary principles of democracy and the law in force was provoked: illegal ceasing of media means, editions, confiscation and destruction of their properties, rough seizure of the offices of several organizations, including the Union "Constitutional Law", arrests of the people without prosecutor's sanction, interrogations, etc.

On implementing this action, which has been planned and carried out on the eve of the following parliamentary elections, the President of Armenia and his circle finally transformed the state structure into an instrument intended to persecute the opposition, terrorize the population and prolong the power of the current authorities.

Opposition Parties: 'No Validity'

NC1101144495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, January 11 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Union of National Accord, consisting of the opposition parties, spreaded a statement, in which the confidence is expressed that "in the time of the current authorities the establishment of democracy and legal state is impossible, besides, the future of national state is endangered".

The opposition considers that Armenian President's decree on suspension of ARF-Dashnaktsutyun contradicts the law currently in force and has no validity.

"By this step, which has been prepared long ago and taken on the eve of the elections, the Armenian President and his circle finally turned the state structure into an instrument intended to persecute the opposition, to threaten the people and to prolong the power of the current administration".

Self-Determination Union: 'Illegal'

NC1101144595 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, January 11 (NOYAN TAPAN)—123 Union of National Self-Determination (UNSD) spreaded a statement concerning Armenian President's decree on suspension of ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, according to which, "this step has been prepared long ago and pursued political purposes".

UNSD considers that "it is impossible to establish a legal state using illegal means. The suspension of ARF-Dashnaktsutyun is the best proof that the ruling upper circles do not need democratic Armenia". Union of National Self-Determination—Christianocrats thinks that such questions must be resolved at a public trial, where "the President must not be present" because he is the head of Executive Branch but not a judge.

"The measures, which are taken by the President, are illegal. We are against such steps. This is nothing but state terrorism",- the statement tells.

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh President Sets Up Defense Ministry

LD1101134095 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan (IPRINDA)—On 10 January, Nagorno-Karabakh President Robert Kocharian signed a decree on setting up the Defense Ministry of Nagorno-Karabakh. Manvel Babayan, who had up until 10 January been the commander of the Nagorno-Karabakh army, was appointed first ever defense minister of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Commander Says Border To Be Defended by National Troops

NC1001221995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1317 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 5 (SNARK)—A regular meeting of heads of CIS frontier troops to be held on January 11 in Moscow, TURAN agency was informed by a commander of frontier troops of Azerbaijan Major General Abbasali Novruzov.

According to Novruzov, a regime of CIS outer borders guarding will be discussed at the meeting. "Our stance on this matter is the same, Azerbaijan will defend its border by its own frontier troops," stressed Novruzov.

Projects of documents prepared on bases of the meeting of frontier troops heads will be submitted to the heads of CIS countries in frameworks of the coming next month summit.

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Georgia

Shevardnadze Grants Extra Powers to Embassy in Russia

LD1101170695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press secretariat of the Georgian head of state reports that head of state Eduard Shevardnadze today signed an edict on granting additional extraordinary powers to the Georgian Embassy in the Russian Federation.

With consideration of the great political, economic, and cultural importance of relations between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Russian Federation is hereafter granted the right to determine and confirm independently the embassy's structure as well as appoint and release from work embassy employees of every rank.

The Finance Ministry of the republic is to work out and adopt an independent budget program for financing the Georgian Embassy in the Russian Federation.

All decrees, resolutions, and orders issued before by the head of state and the Cabinet of Ministers under which various structures and missions had been set up in the Russian Federation, and under which envoys extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the head of state or the Cabinet of Ministers had been appointed, are hereafter announced null and void.

The Georgian trade and economic mission to Russia is hereafter to merge with the embassy and is subordinated to it together with its property.

The Republic's Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and departments are to assist the embassy in its work and improve its logistics.

Supreme Council Approves 1995 Budget

LD1101173895 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the Supreme Council this afternoon. He said that it was necessary to approve the state budget as it will lead the country out of the current crisis. Shevardnadze also noted that every effort had to be made in order to provide for the logistics in the Georgian Armed Forces, and that would put the Georgian Army on a par with the world standards. When touching on the famous terrorist act that claimed the life of National Democratic Party leader Giorgi Chanturia, Shevardnadze noted that everything would be done in order to find and punish the criminals. He added that foreign experts would be sought for help should there be a need for it.

Following debates and discussions, the Georgian Supreme Council approved (122 votes for) the state budget for 1995 by a majority of votes.

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Estonia

Tallinn Supports OSCE's Chechen Crisis Offer

LD1101201195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 11 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 11 (INTERFAX)—Estonia has expressed support for an offer by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe to help settle the Chechen crisis.

"Such assistance would help put an end to bloodshed and prevent further escalation of military activity," the Estonian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that came out on Tuesday [10 January] evening.

"Until now the actions of the Russian leadership have not brought forward the political settlement of the conflict but have only led to new deaths," the ministry said, urging Moscow "to give officials from international humanitarian and human rights organizations unrestricted access to Chechnya" and "publicize data about casualties and the scale of destruction."

Russian Parties Form Bloc For Parliamentary Elections

MK1101144495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Yuriy Maloveryan under the "Estonia" rubric: "Russian Parties Unite Before Elections Although They Have Little in Common on Key Problems of Policy and Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of talks last week, the United People's Party of Estonia (UPPE), the Russian Party of Estonia (RPE), and the officially unregistered Russian People's Party of Estonia (RPPE) decided to create an electoral alliance called "Our Home Is Estonia!" and to go into the March elections for parliament as a single bloc. In their statement, which was promulgated Monday, leaders of the three parties said that the bloc's deputies in parliament will press for "the creation of a civil society, the building a law-governed state, the formation of a socially-oriented market economy, and guaranteeing the entire set of rights for all inhabitants of the republic regardless of their nationality and social status."

Members of the bloc do not conceal the fact that they are united primarily on linguistic grounds. Experts put the number of Russian-speaking citizens in Estonia at nearly 100,000, and the bloc stands a real chance of winning nearly ten out of the 101 seats in parliament. However, "Our Home" deputies are unlikely to speak in one voice on questions other than the nationalities question. The views of the most powerful of the allies, the UPPE, a party of entrepreneurs and intellectuals, the emphatically left-wing RPPE, and the "neither here nor there" but plainly populist RPE, on the economy and their attitude to the Estonian state are often diametrically opposed.

Aleksey Zybin, Russian People's Party leader, stated to your SEGODNYA correspondent that the main goal of all three of the parties is the "building of a law-governed state" and the solution of the citizenship problem for non-Estonians. As for the matters unconnected with the nationalities problem, Zybin thinks that future deputies will vote "discordantly." "And that should not be seen as a tragedy," says the leader of the unregistered Russian People's Party of Estonia, who only recently accused the UPPE of links with international Jewish capital and who has now formed a bloc with it.

The bloc will soon face its first test of strength—the distribution of places on its list of candidates. The three parties must distribute places on the list by 19 January (the deadline for registering candidates of blocs). Under the proportional election system adopted in Estonia, candidates appearing closer to the top of the list a have better chance of becoming deputies. Being among the first five is a guarantee of winning a seat if the bloc does well overall. One of the UPPE's leaders, Aleksey Semenov, told your SEGODNYA correspondent that, according to preliminary plans, the top positions on the list will be distributed in proportion to the money contributed to the election campaign: 12 to UPPE candidates, six to RPE candidates, and three to RPPE candidates. Mr. Zybin, however, is unhappy with this approach, however, since he has no money and thinks that such a distribution of positions on the list "is not entirely fair." "In this case someone may perhaps contribute 10 million and buy the entire list," the leader of the unregistered Russian People's Party of Estonia stated in an interview for SEGODNYA.

Latvia

Environmental Protection Memorandum Signed With Finland

WS1101155995 Tallinn BNS in English 1403 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jan 11, BNS—The Finnish Government will extend 1.1 million lats to reconstruct the water supply and severage system of the Latvian Liepaja city, according to a cooperative memorandum on environmental protection, which was signed Wednesday [11 January] in Riga.

Latvian Environmental Protection Minister Indulis Emsis described cooperation with Finland as very successful "because Finland understands us better than any other developed country thanks to its similar geopolitical situation."

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"This is one more step in tackling Latvia's environmental problems. The process has developed from technical assistance and education programs into major investment projects," Emsis said.

The minister thanked the Finnish Government and Ambassador Anti Lassila, who was present at the signature of the memorandum, for supporting Latvian activities.

The Finnish Government subsidies constitute only part of the 11-million-lat reconstruction project whose implementation will begin this spring and continue until the end of 1999.

Nationals Demonstrate at Russian Embassy

WS1101161595 Riga DIENA in Latvian 29 Dec 94 p 8

[Report by Juris Tihonovs: "Union of National Forces Protests Against Russia's Action In Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riga, 28 Dec — For several days, demonstrations organized by the Union of National Forces are continuing in front of the Russian Embassy, during which condemnation of the Russian aggression in Chechnya is expressed. About 100 people, among whom were members of "Helsinki 86", "Fatherland and Freedom" [TB], the Latvian National Independence Movement [LNNK], and the Latvian Popular Front, urged Russia to cease aggression in Chechnya and begin talks to resolve the conflict in a peaceful manner.

Visvaldis Brinkmanis, a TB faction assistant, in his conversation with DIENA expressed regret that not one of the parliament members took part in the demonstration. "Parliament members of Estonia and Lithuania have been more active in this matter," said Brinkmanis.

As "Helsinki 86" member Marita Gulbe told DIENA, she has been taking part in the demonstrations since 16 December, in response to an appeal by TB faction leader Maris Grinblats who urged demonstrating against the attitude toward events in Chechnya. She also explained that demonstrations are conducted daily from 1100 to 1300.

"We are not satisfied with the standpoint of parliament members in the case of Chechnya. Aleksandrs Kirsteins [from LNNK] has even spoken against the pickets supporting Chechnya. Therefore, it may be stated that the LNNK has not officially taken part in the demonstrations," said Gulbe. [passage omitted]

Prices Increase by 26.3 Percent in 1994

LD1101174995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prices increased by 26.3 percent in Latvia last year. Average world inflation for its part was 25 percent. Prices of foodstuffs including alcohol increased by 16 percent in Latvia last year compared with December 93 figures; clothes and footware—by 34 percent; the cost of rent—by 37 percent; health care—by 63 percent; transport and communications—by 38 percent; expenses on recreation, culture, and education increased by 55 percent and expenses on services of other groups—by 51 percent. The minimum wage set by the government is currently 28 lats.

Decision on Heating Allowances Provokes Criticism

WS1201103695 Tallinn BNS in English 1832 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jan 11, BNS—The controversial Riga city council decision to pay heating allowances only to Latvian citizens has provoked broad and prevailingly critical response.

The parliament factions of Latvia's Way, Political Association of Economists and Equality of Rights view the decision as politically erroneous. The decision represents an indirect pressure on non-citizens to strive for naturalization, said Latvia's Way faction deputy head Indulis Berzins.

All residents who pay taxes to the state are entitled to receive social allowances in case of need, said Economists' faction member Yevgeni Zascherinski said. The unreasoned step may even pose problems for Latvia's acceptance to international organizations, he noted.

The Equality of Rights (Lidztiesiba) faction head Larisa Lavina added that the move creates discord in the Latvian society and endangers interior stability.

The Latvian Free Trade Unions Association characterizes the decision on allowances as "politically irresponsible, inconsistent with fundamental principles of democracy and aimed at splitting of the society." The association shares the opinion of several parliament factions that the decision may complicate Latvia's anticipated entrance into the Council of Europe.

The trade unions advise the Cabinet to revoke the decision and ensure that disadvantaged Riga residents receive all appropriate assistance.

The national forces-dominated city council motivated the decision with the 1995 budget plan redividing the income of the Riga municipality so that it lacks means to ensure its entire functions.

The Latvian National Conservative Party LNNK, which is broadly represented in the city council, does not object to supporting non-citizens but it maintains that they should demand the money from the Cabinet, said its faction chairman Alexander Kirsteins.

The national-minded Homeland and Freedom association welcomes the city council decision and proposes that all local governments introduce preferential rights of citizens to social allowances. The association urges the parliament to include the respective norm in laws regulating social protection.

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Lithuania

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Belarus Joining PFP Program

LD1101180995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuania welcomes Belarus joining the NATO program Partnership for Peace [PFP] and expects that this will contribute to the formation of a democratic society in Belarus, reads a statement by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made public today.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expects that having joined the partnership, Belarus will strengthen understanding and confidence among the neighboring states and will contribute to the consolidation of security in Europe based on partnership and cooperation.

Lithuania, as an active participant in the Partnership for Peace program, is interested in developing cooperation with the Republic of Belarus within the framework of this program, says the statement by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reports of Russia Carrying Bombs Through Lithuania Denied

LD1101224195 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 11 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government press attache has denied claims by the LIETUVOS AIDAS daily that Russia is transporting bombs in transit through Lithuania to murder the Chechens.

The government press attache claims that explosives were being taken for some time now from an arsenal in the Kaliningrad region to various parts of Russia, which is in complete conformity with the interests of Lithuania. It is stressed in the statement that it is impossible to claim that transport of military cargoes means approval of or support to Russian actions in Chechnya, or, moreover, military cooperation. Lithuania has not signed and does not intend to sign in the future any agreement on military cooperation with Russia.

When a new hotbed of international tension sprang up, Lithuania had taken additional measures so that Lithuania is not in any way drawn into a military conflict, reads a statement by the government press attache.

Internal Affairs Minister Provides 1994 Crime Statistics

WS1201103795 Vilnius ELTA in English 1821 GMT 11 Jan 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 670]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, January 11, ELTA — Total number of crimes in Lithuania during the last year decreased almost by 3 per cent, said Minister of Internal Affairs Romasis Vaitekunas on Tuesday. He stressed that such a tendency of decrease in crimes was observed for the first time during last six years.

However, although total number of crimes is decreasing, that of serious crimes (such as homicides, rapes and severe injuries) is growing, Vaitekunas said. Most of all number of rapes and homicides grew and by 16 and 9 per cent, correspondingly, exceeded that in 1993.

Employees of Internal Affairs System are greatly concerned about car thefts: "This is one of types of organized crimes. That's why it is so difficult to cope with them", said Vaitekunas. There is a plan to strengthen border posts, especially at eastern borders of Lithuania, where basicly illegal trade in cars occurs.

Vaitekunas informed that, in 1995, a great attention is planned to be paid to a "personnel refining". In his opinion, very strict selection should be done. It should start from entrance exams to the Police Academy and police schools. Perhaps then, crimes of policemen will decrease as well. In 1994, policemen made crimes by 17.6 per cent more than in 1993. More than 500 policemen were dismissed from job.

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